

Shooting of a car thief uncovers terrorist explosives cache

Manhunt after IRA bomb find



The wanted man: He fled leaving behind his photograph.



The bomb factory: In a suburban road in south-west London police uncovered "by luck" an arsenal of Semtex explosives, machine-guns and a Kalashnikov rifle.

Wanted man panics leaving photo behind

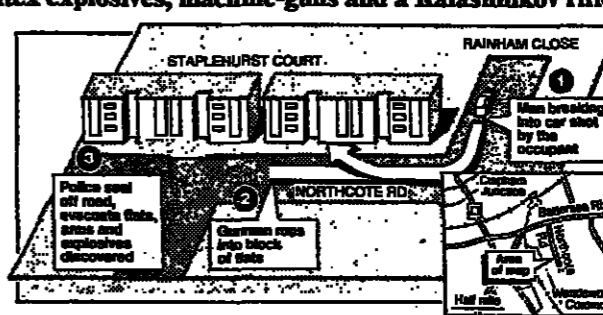
Two IRA terrorists are being hunted after a huge cache of explosives and weapons was found in a London flat. Police believe they have accidentally foiled a new IRA bombing campaign, but urged the public to be on the alert.

The arsenal was discovered when police were called to the area after the would-be car thief was shot by one of the unit police believe was either asleep or hiding in the back seat of a Renault parked in a street at the side of the storey block of flats. The terrorist shot the youth, ran to the flat and then fled with another man in a second car later found abandoned in north London.

Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch believe the purely fortuitous find foiled plans by Errington and LP Flynn - were linked to a man who left his spectacles behind. Mr Annesley asked for any members of the public who had been approached recently by men inquiring about renting a flat "in suspicious or unusual circumstances" to contact the anti-terrorist branches via two special phone lines: (01) 230 3347 or (01) 230 3421.



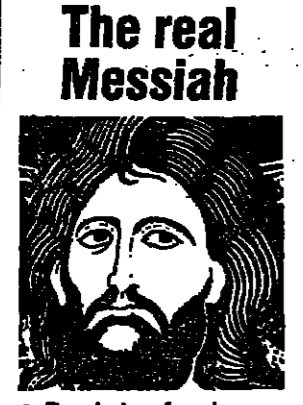
The explosives: A policeman in white overalls carries a container of bomb-making equipment from the flat. The youth, who is unlikely to face charges, was taken to St George's Hospital where, after an operation, he was said to be in a stable condition last night.



Mainland terror alert

Scotland Yard and the security services have been on the alert for signs of a fresh IRA bombing campaign in mainland Britain since the summer. The Irish desk within the Yard's Special Branch has been working at full pelt in recent weeks and potential targets have been on an increased state of alert.

CHRISTMAS with THE TIMES



The real Messiah. Prophet or freedom fighter, deity or dissident? In a special Christmas Eve edition of the Sunday Times Magazine, which will be published with The Times on Saturday, eminent scholars - including Anthony Burgess - reflect on Christ and Christianity.

WIN £68,000

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator. Yesterday's £4,000 daily prize was shared between two winners (see page 3). The fund stands at £68,000. Prices: page 27

INDEX table listing various sections and their page numbers: Home News 2-5, Overseas 7-9, Business 23-28, Sport 30-34, etc.

Parents of tortured baby get 12 years for manslaughter

The parents of Doreen Mason, the battered baby who died last year from a brain haemorrhage after a lifetime of torture, were sent to prison for 12 years yesterday for cruelty and manslaughter. Mr Justice Turner told the couple: "You have been convicted of a crime which has involved cruelty and neglect of a young and defenceless baby which has assumed quite horrifying, shocking and almost unbelievable proportions."

250 feared dead in Scottish jet crash

More than 250 people were feared killed last night when a Pan-American Boeing 747 jumbo jet flying from London, Heathrow, to New York crashed and exploded at Lockerbie in Scotland. Witnesses spoke of a huge fireball 300 feet in the sky as the plane came down on the small Borders town, 17 miles east of Dumfries.

Advertisement for Famous Grouse whisky, featuring an illustration of a grouse and a bottle of whisky. Text includes 'THE FAMOUS GROUSE Quality in an age of change.'

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, partially cut off, containing various words and phrases.

NEWS ROUNDUP

Police may storm church sanctuary

Police were last night awaiting orders to storm a church and forcibly remove an illegal resident from sanctuary in which he has received protection for two years.

Surrey murder charge

A man aged 20 was last night charged with the murder of Mr Peter Hurlbrough, aged 57, the hairdresser who was tied up and dumped in a field after his car was hijacked at Wokingham, Surrey, last Friday.

Unions in merger

The GMB general union yesterday became the second biggest union in Britain, with 877,000 members, when it announced its merger with the white-collar Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff (Apex).

Pensioner loses plea

Jemima Wilson, the pensioner who took on Bradford City Council in the High Court yesterday, lost her fight to stop the sale of her old people's home.

Radiation payouts

Thirty four of the 207 cancer patients given accidental radiation overdoses at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital at Exeter this summer received initial compensation payments yesterday.

Record new car sales

New car sales in the UK are set to reach a record 2.2 million for 1988, it was disclosed yesterday. However, motor industry sources believe 1989 could see sales dropping.

Direct tobacco and cancer link found

British scientists have found the long-sought link between smoking and lung cancer. A report published today from teams at the Institute of Cancer Research, in London, and the Cancer Research Unit, at York University, shows for the first time the link between the number of cigarettes smoked and the levels in lung tissue of a cancer-causing agent derived from cigarettes.

EEC signals end of television listings monopoly

The BBC has formally apologized to Sir Brian Rix, chairman of Mescap, over a bungled interview about sterilization of mentally handicapped people. Bad editing of the interview resulted in an answer Sir Brian gave to one question being screened as the response to a different one.

MPs warn Lawson of interest-rate 'tightrope'

By Martin Fletcher Political Reporter

A Conservative-controlled committee of MPs said yesterday that Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, was treading a dangerous "tightrope" with his policy of raising interest rates to curb inflation.

The Treasury select committee said that if high interest rates choked growth too suddenly, unemployment would rise. If they acted too slowly, there could be a run on sterling and accelerated inflation.

The committee rebuked the Treasury for "appalling discrepancies" apparent in official economic statistics.

"That it is impossible to know what is happening to major economic variables means it is very hard to understand where the economy has been or is, let alone where it is going", the MPs said. They demanded a "drastic improvement"

and disagreed with Mr Lawson on the seriousness of Britain's rapidly deteriorating balance of payments deficit.

Two consecutive annual deficits well in excess of 2 per cent of GDP had not happened since shortly after the last war.

"We are not aware of any occasion since then in which the economy of any major trading nation has run a long series of deficits of this size without eventually encountering currency difficulties", they said.

They said that in successive forecasts, the target of 3 per cent inflation was always three years from being realized, and the present rate was double the 1985 projection.

Mr Terence Higgins, the Tory chairman, said this was a "very disturbing situation".

Based on extensive evidence from senior Treasury ministers and officials, the report said monetary policy after the October 1987

stockmarket crash had been too relaxed for too long. Action had clearly been required to slow over-rapid growth.

Mr Lawson was relying on higher interest rates to curb inflation and domestic demand but there were two dangers in this reaction.

"A sudden response could lead to an abrupt 'stop' in the economy and the recent favourable trend in unemployment figures... could be halted."

A delayed response, on the other hand, could lead to a loss of confidence in sterling and a fall in the currency that no corrective measures could easily reverse, with the result that inflation, already too high, would accelerate.

The MPs are worried about industry's ability to cope with the high interest rates, even though it was stronger than during the 1979-80 liquidity squeeze.

"While supporting a broadly contractionary policy stance for the

time being, we are concerned about the corporate sector's ability to absorb a prolonged and sharp contraction in monetary policy without undermining its efficiency and the country's economic prospects", they said.

They also warned the Government of "a potentially serious policy conflict" between using the exchange rate as part of a counter-inflationary policy, and simultaneously requiring it to contribute to the reduction of the current account deficit.

"Improving the current account is more difficult if the exchange rate is prevented from redressing the balance", the committee said.

Elsewhere in the report, the MPs said the Chancellor had changed policy since his spring dispute with the Prime Minister over the need for exchange rate stability in the fight against inflation. He now acknowledged it needed to rise. They said the £10 billion Public Sector Debt

Repayment forecast in the Autumn Statement was "less impressive" than it appeared, as a large proportion was due to asset sales.

The committee urged Mr Lawson to encourage savings and direct them to more productive investment than housing in the next Budget.

It said the Government's underlying monetary policy was difficult to discern because "tactics now appear to change so frequently".

The Government's emphasis on reducing public spending as a proportion of GDP was flawed because it did not show the true resource claims of the public sector.

The report was not unanimous. Mr John Watts, a Conservative MP, dissented, as did Labour's Mr Brian Sedgmore, who issued a separate report, talking of the Chancellor's "babbling incoherence".

Treasury and Civil Service Committee: Autumn Statement 1988 (Stationery Office: £12.50).

Burgers with unfit Irish meat 'not in food chain'

By John Young and Robin Oakley

British consumers do not run the risk of eating beef burgers made from Irish meat that is unfit for human consumption, MPs were told yesterday.

Answering an emergency question about contaminated "blue" meat found at Mid-Cornwall Meat Packers, Mr John MacGregor, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, said sub-standard Irish beef had not entered the food chain.

But while Mr MacGregor was trying to defuse the latest health scare, the Institute of Environmental Health Officers said it was quite likely that some of the Irish meat had entered the system because there were not the resources to examine every consignment. Only about 5 per cent of all imports were checked at the point of entry.

Checks were also made at meat processing plants, but those were random, and it was impossible for an officer to be present all the time.

Mr MacGregor said he was confident that quick action by Carrick District Council health had prevented people eating meat unfit for human consumption. He believed that it was an isolated case.

All meat imported from EEC countries, other than Ireland, had to be accompanied by a health certificate, and he hoped to speak to Mr Michael O'Kennedy, the Irish Minister of Health, to discover what had happened.

Since September, the council had been regularly monitoring meat entering the Mid-Cornwall plant, and on a number of occasions consignments had been surrendered.

But last week the company had refused to surrender part of a consignment that Mr Ian Holmes, the environmental health officer, considered to be unfit. It was taken before a magistrate, who condemned it.

Carrick had alerted other health officials around the country after they discovered the condition of the Irish beef.

The "blue meat" from slaughtered elderly and arthritic dairy cattle had been certified by the Irish authorities as fit for human consumption, Mr Holmes said.

According to the institute, carcasses may be passed fit at Irish slaughterhouses but, by the time they reach Britain, have suffered excessive deterioration. That could be due to bad packing or loading, so that the bacteria count rises rapidly and the meat looks

Mixed fortunes for Post Office

PETER TREVINO



Mr Poonam Chavhan, a Post Office worker, surrounded by the last-minute rush of Christmas mail at the St Pancras Way sorting office in London yesterday, on the day the Post Office announced a £34 million slump in half-year profits, to £12 million, compared with the same period last year.

A spokesman blamed postal workers, whose September strike he said cost the group £40 million.

However, management hoped for an upturn by the end of the financial year which would account for the Christmas peak. "Profits in the second half of the year normally exceed those for the first half", the spokesman said. But the

Girobank, which is due to be sold, announced an increase in pre-tax half-year profits from £7 million in the six months to September 1987 to £9 million for the same period this year.

Meanwhile, Sir Bryan Nicholson, the Post Office chairman, yesterday warned the public to be extra vigilant after the discovery of a number of letter bombs.

He was questioned on the scare during a visit to the main postal sorting office in Glasgow. "Anyone who attempts to use the season of peace and goodwill to send something like that through the mail shows contemptible behaviour", Sir Bryan said. However, he gave a warning against the public over-reacting and said

that the number of devices passed into the postal service had been very small.

A group calling itself the Black Liberation Front yesterday claimed responsibility for sending parcel bombs to Mr Geoffrey Dear, chief constable of the West Midlands, one of his superintendents and a former senior police officer and said that more devices were in the post.

An anonymous caller to the Express and Star, Wolverhampton, used a colorword the group used in the past. The parcel bomb addressed to the chief constable burst into flames when it was franked by a sorter at the main Coventry sorting office on Monday night.

Currie to face MPs' inquiry

By Martin Fletcher and John Young

Mrs Edwina Currie, who resigned as a Under Secretary of State for Health, last Friday, is to be invited to appear before an urgent parliamentary inquiry into the egg crisis to explain why she made the comment that triggered it.

The all-party Agriculture select committee also decided at a private meeting yesterday to ask the Department of Agriculture to give it the briefing papers that officials prepared for Mrs Currie and other ministers.

Two weekends ago Mrs Currie gave a television interview in which she said that "most" egg production in this country was infected with salmonella.

Mr Jerry Wiggin, Conservative chairman of the Agriculture committee, said that since then there had been "confusion at every turn". Mrs Currie has failed to either retract or enlarge on what she said, though Mr John Mac-

Gregor, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, has denied it.

The inquiry will investigate the cause and extent of salmonella in eggs and the government's reaction to the crisis.

The MPs are determined to find out whether Mrs Currie's statement was an unfortunate exaggeration, or whether it was based on a briefing from her officials and the scale of the salmonella problem was therefore greater than the Government was publicly admitting.

The committee has written inviting Mrs Currie to submit a memorandum and to give oral evidence.

"Since she was very much the catalyst for this particular incident I think she might herself wish to explain what happened. Or she might wish to say nothing. If so, we can't force her", Mr Wiggin said.

Mr Simon Gourlay, President of the National Farmers' Union, yesterday called on the

Government to consider a total ban on the use of poultry by-products in feed for laying hens, as one of a number of measures to establish the reputation of the egg as one of Britain's favourite and most versatile foods.

Speaking at Wykeham, North Yorkshire, he said: "The public do not like the idea of poultry by-products being fed to laying hens. I can say most egg producers do not feed such products, but I cannot say it has never happened. We now say the practice should be stopped."

He said there should be a statutory declaration of the ingredients included in compound feedstuffs.

Thames Valley Eggs, one of Britain's biggest producers, said yesterday that it had dismissed 60 workers and put the remaining 600 on a 30-hour week. It blamed a drop in sales of 60 per cent, and said a pay rise agreed for January was being postponed.

£4bn deals create jobs for 60,000

Sixty thousand new jobs are likely to be created after the announcement yesterday of plans for investment worth nearly £4 billion on Strathclyde and in Leeds.

A £3 billion transatlantic development deal is set to wipe out unemployment in Leeds where the number of unemployed stands at 26,000.

Triple Five, the Canadian business, has chosen the city as the centre for a massive retail, commercial and leisure complex that will create 25,000 jobs.

Strathclyde Regional Council was told by the EEC in Glasgow yesterday that a £995 million boost for the local economy had been approved by the European Commission. It will mean 35,000 new jobs.

The commission has given the go-ahead to a five-year integrated development programme which was submitted jointly by the regional council and the Industry Department for Scotland.

Outline proposals for the scheme in Leeds include three million square feet of office space, hundreds of shops, a hotel, fantasy theme parks, an ice rink, marina, entertainment centre, trade and exhibitions centre, warehousing and up to 6,000 new homes.

The urban regeneration scheme agreed by Leeds City Council, Leeds City Development Company and Triple Five will start the preparation of detailed plans to be put before the Government-backed Leeds Development Corporation.

Mr George Mundie, leader of the city council, said the proposals had all-party support.

Britain proposes Antarctic airstrip

By Pease Wright, Science Editor

The Government is to allow the British Antarctic Survey to build an airstrip in the Antarctic and establish a regular air bridge with the Falklands. The project, including a new aircraft, will cost £19 million.

But the plan has to be acceptable on environmental grounds to the Antarctic Treaty, which forbids development of the area.

The gravel airstrip would be built at Rothera, close to the main British base at Halley Bay. An air link would extend the range of research by the British scientists who discovered the hole in the Earth's protective layer of ozone.

They are also monitoring the thickness of the ice sheet in winter and its melting in summer as part of investigations into the "greenhouse effect", which is causing a warming of the atmosphere.

The pristine conditions in Antarctica make it a unique laboratory for distinguishing

between tiny global changes in the environment produced by natural events and man-made pollution.

Moreover, plant and animal life in Antarctica are known to have very little resistance to disturbance.

Consequently, a report on the impact on the environment of the building work has been written by Mr Nigel Bonner and Dr RIL Smith for the Natural Environmental Research Council, the Antarctic survey's parent body.

The council said yesterday careful consideration had been given to the long-term effect of the proposed strip, in view of the plant and animal recolonization rate being slow.

The new undertaking proposes to use a larger passenger aircraft, such as a Dash-7, giving British scientists and their equipment direct access from the Falklands and South America and extending activities south to the Pole.

Correction

The partnership proposing the Heathrow-Paddington rail link involves BAA (formerly British Airports Authority) and British Rail, not British Airways, as reported on December 10.

Reading The Times... (Small text at the bottom right corner)

lightrope  
POST OFFICE

# Born into a violent family, Doreen Mason was doomed to die

## Three councils let 'at-risk' baby slip through their nets

By Michael Horsnell

Doreen Mason's family background of child abuse was so deep-rooted she was probably doomed from the moment she was born.

The girl, aged 16 months and half Turkish, might nevertheless have been saved from the torture inflicted by her deprived mother, Christine Mason, and stepfather, Roy Aston.

But three local authority social services departments — Berkshire, Lambeth and Southwark — which might have combined to save her, allowed Doreen to slip through their nets.

She died in hospital of a brain haemorrhage on September 13 last year after months of unspeakable suffering at her parents' council flat in Arnold House, Dudding Grove, Walworth, south London.

An indictment of the care she received is detailed in two confidential internal Southwark Council reports, but the council obtained an *ex parte* injunction in the High Court on Tuesday to prevent publication of them.

The reports were prepared for Mr Dennis Simpson, Southwark's director of social services, by Mr Clive Walsh, then head of field work and community services.

Mr Walsh was suspended from duty for reasons which the council refuses to discuss the day before he was due to answer questions on the case from a council sub-committee.

Mr Simon Hughes, SLD MP for Southwark and Bermondsey, who is planning to raise the case in the Commons, added: "I am clear that it is not in the public interest for the sorry story of Southwark and Lambeth councils' inadequate and incompetent discharge of their social services and child care responsibilities to be kept secret."

"They and the Government must now be made to answer the most serious charges which this case makes clear should be brought against them."

Mr Simpson, who was assistant director of family services in the London borough of Brent at the time of the Jasmine Beckford abuse affair in 1984, declined to speak to *The Times* about the handling of the Doreen Mason case.

In 1985, Mr Simpson warned councillors in a public report to a committee that area 8, in which Doreen was cared for, and two others were so stretched they could not cope with statutory work.

As a result of her death, he has called in the Department of Health's Social Services Inspectorate to undertake a study of child protection practices within his department.

This will be the fourth

inquiry into Doreen's death. An internal social services case review is almost complete; an independent area review committee will soon be convened; and, finally, Southwark itself will set up a full management inquiry to determine whether any formal action should be taken against members of staff.

Meanwhile, members of Southwark Council have ordered Mr Simpson to report on the staffing levels in his department and £350,000 has been earmarked for a pay package designed to encourage social workers to stay in the borough.

Stretched to their limit, social workers are striving to protect 632 children on the Southwark at-risk register.

This represents 18 per 1,000 children, compared with a national average of three per thousand.

The staff, whose starting salary is a little above £11,000 a year, is 21 per cent down on its complement of 148 and morale is said to be disturbingly low.

Mr Jeremy Fraser, chairman of Southwark's social services committee, said: "Doreen's death has highlighted in a very tragic way the enormous child care needs of

under bath water for refusing to eat, and had her hand virtually skinned by a cigarette lighter.

Mason, aged 22, was one of 12 children — three of whom died in infancy — and was taken into care after her parents divorced.

Later she was handed over to her father whom, the court was told, was a psychopath who allegedly sexually assaulted her.

She moved out to live in a hostel in Slough when she became pregnant with Karl. The boy was a cot death victim, though a pathologist said he also suffered injuries including broken ribs and a brain haemorrhage, which had not contributed to his death.

Neither Mason nor Karl's father was prosecuted, but she (Mason) told Mr Stephen Spurr, a Berkshire social worker, that the child had been slammed against a table and smothered.

Whether Southwark and Lambeth were adequately informed of this remains uncertain. The matter is disputed by all three authorities.

Mason carried Karl's ashes around with her, often talking to them, and romanticized the memory of the little boy to the detriment of her daughter.

Aston, an unemployed man originally from Birmingham, aged 24, is part of an extended family of nine children.

He was responsible for injuries sustained by children of an earlier association with another woman — her children being on the at-risk register of Kensington and Chelsea — and has served youth detention terms for burglary. He met Mason in a public house.

It is also known that violence was a feature of the relationship between Aston and Mason, who met in a public house when she was pregnant with Doreen.

It was into this sordid background that Doreen was born.

Mason discharged herself from Guy's Hospital the day after Doreen was born without the knowledge of social workers.

Lambeth is said to have taken the view that the case was Southwark's, with little or no implication for them despite Mason's frequent residency at her mother's house and use of a Lambeth day centre.

Not once were social workers allowed into Aston's flat when they called and at no stage did social services consider seeking a place of safety order from magistrates under the Children and Young Persons Act, 1969.

That was in spite of a health visitor, Miss Stephanie Corner, concluding after 45 visits



A family spawned on abuse and violence: Roy Aston (top), Christine Mason and tragic Doreen.

## Four reviews ordered of borough care

By Ruth Gledhill, Jill Sherman and David Sapsted

A full investigation, involving four separate reviews, has been launched by Southwark Council into the handling of the Doreen Mason case.

The council is to hold a management inquiry to determine whether any formal action should be taken against individual members of staff and it has already asked Mr Dennis Simpson, its director of social services, to prepare a detailed case review of the events that led to Doreen's death on September 13 last year.

He in turn has asked the Social Services Inspectorate to study practices in his department.

The case will also be referred to the Area Review Committee, which is setting up a panel chaired by Mr Richard White, an independent solicitor and an expert on child care law. It will review all the reports prepared by the agencies involved.

Miss Gillian Langford, aged 27, the social worker responsible for Doreen, Mr Iain Davidson, her team leader, were not at their area 8 office in Southwark yesterday. Staff said they were on a

week's leave. A spokesman for Southwark Council said the area review would also assess "whether decisions and actions taken in the case were reasonable and responsible" and checks would be made on procedures.

He added: "Consideration will be given to whether the services provided matched the needs of the case, bearing in mind the resources available."

The council was suffering from "a severe shortage" of qualified social workers, he said.

"Child protection work in Southwark is stretched to the limit. A review has already been completed on the need for additional resources to be deployed into this vital field of work."

Mr Jeremy Fraser, chairman of the council's social services committee, said: "The evidence gathered so far points to Doreen Mason having been appropriately and correctly regarded as a child very much at risk."

"Her death has highlighted in a very tragic way the enormous child care need of this borough, and we are determined

to learn lessons from the events that led to her death.

"We shall make every effort to implement any necessary improvements to our child care services within the very restricted financial resources available to us."

The investigations follow several extensive inquiries into the role of social workers in child cruelty cases, including Maria Colwell, aged three, who was beaten to death at her home in Brighton in January 1973 (East Sussex County Council); Jasmine Beckford, aged four, beaten to death in July 1984 and found with burns, cuts and ulcers (Brent Council); Tyra Henry, aged 21 months, bitten and battered to death in September 1984 (Lambeth Council); and Heidi Koskida, aged three, starved to death in November 1984 (known to social services and the NSPCC). Her body was not found until January 1985.

In June 1986, Kimberley Carlie died at the hands of her stepfather. She was known to social services in The Wirral and Greenwich, east London.



Miss Gillian Langford: never allowed in flat.

this borough and we are determined to learn lessons from the events that led to it.

"We shall make every effort to implement any necessary improvements to our child care services within the very restricted financial resources available to us."

Doreen was placed on the council's at-risk register 18 days after her birth on May 22, 1986, owing to the circumstances of her brother Karl's death at the age of 10 weeks in 1985.

Her mother had an "uncontrollable temper", had threatened to kill Doreen, and once held a knife to the little girl's throat.

Doreen was forced to stand on a leg fractured five times until she passed out, held

or attempted visits that Doreen should have been the subject of an order.

Agreed procedures and departmental guidelines were not met and case conferences not held when they should have been.

Specific allegations of mistreatment were made to the council by members of Aston's family but these were not investigated properly.

Miss Gillian Langford, aged 27, the social worker responsible for Doreen, was never allowed into the flat, and the girl was seen only twice by social workers, on both occasions by Lambeth — once at her grandmother's home and once at a child clinic in Brixton.

In her last three months, Doreen was seen just once from a distance in the street by a health visitor.

Miss Langford was said to have relied on reports about Doreen from health visitors in

the earliest months of her life and a social worker responsible for Mason's mother in Lambeth.

Mr Iain Davidson, Miss Langford's team leader, is also said by colleagues to have been inexperienced.

On September 10, a case conference was held at which it was decided to send the couple a recorded delivery letter asking Aston and Mason to attend a meeting on September 17.

It was neither signed nor sent, but by the time of the proposed meeting, Doreen had already been dead four days.

She joined a long list of infamous child abuse cases, including Maria Colwell, Jasmine Beckford, Tyra Henry, Heidi Koskida, and Kimberley Carlie.

That was despite the holding of more than 20 inquiries into child death cases since 1974.

## Child torture pair jailed for 7 years

A father and stepmother who inflicted a horrifying and fatal catalogue of torture on a boy aged eight, including branding his buttocks and genitals, were jailed for seven years yesterday.

The body of Gardaver Hussain was "a mass of burns and bruises" when he was carried into a Birmingham hospital last February, Stafford Crown Court was told.

His punishments had included being branded with a hot iron, leaving his private parts put between the bars of a heater, being marked with high heels and being tied in a crucifixion position overnight.

The boy had died from a brain haemorrhage, the court was told. Jailing the boy's father, Roora Hussain, aged 35, and his stepmother, Farmindee Hussain, aged 25, Mr Justice Ian Kennedy told them: "Your conduct became wicked and perverse."

"His body bore the marks of branding and branding his life must have been appalling during those few weeks."

"He was branded across the buttocks and genitals, he had a fractured leg and there was terrible bruising. This was violent cruelty."

The couple, from Handsworth, Birmingham, had been convicted of manslaughter and cruelty by a jury at Birmingham earlier this month.

Sentence had been adjourned for reports.

## Portfolio PLUS Accumulator New suits for winner

Mr Frank Lewis, from Heme Bay, Kent, was one of two winners to share yesterday's Portfolio prize of £4,000.

Mr Lewis, aged 62, is a retired caravan club manager, and former Irish guardsman. He plans to spend his win on a new kitchen and some specially made suits.

"My wife and I will certainly be having a very merry Christmas this year", he said.

The other winner was Mr Graham Wallace, from Brighton, East Sussex.

## Man must pay over ex-wife's affair

By Frances Gibb Legal Affairs Correspondent

A divorced man must continue paying maintenance to his former wife so she can stay at home to look after the illegitimate son she had by another man, the Court of Appeal ruled yesterday.

The decision, described by the man's lawyer as "harsh", effectively means that Mr John Fisher, aged 58, a managing director, is paying for an affair his wife, Janet, aged 41, had three years after they split up but before their divorce decree was made absolute.

The Court of Appeal judges agreed that former wives should not have "meal tickets for life", but they said the child had to be taken into consideration. They rejected an attempt by Mr Fisher to end the maintenance order to his wife. They also ordered him to pay the legal costs of the appeal.

Mr Fisher had contended that earlier court decisions continuing the maintenance order to his former wife, because she was unable to go out to work because of her illegitimate son, were unfair.

But Lord Justice Purchas, sitting with Lord Justices Nourse and Stuart-Smith, said the court was being asked to ignore Mrs Fisher's responsibility to her child because it was not a child of the family.

Mrs Fisher, of Swaines Way, Heathfield, East Sussex, was awarded a decree nisi in March 1979 on the ground that Mr Fisher, of Cross in Hand, East Sussex, had behaved in such a way she could no longer be expected to live with him.

The decree, which brought to an end the couple's six-year marriage, was not made absolute until 1982, however. In 1981 Mrs Fisher gave birth to a son by another man.

Lord Justice Purchas said the law now discouraged "meal ticket for life" maintenance payments in the case of short marriages where there were no children.

But they accepted that as the child in this case was only seven, that was an inhibiting factor in Mrs Fisher seeking even part-time work.

In the circumstances it was impossible to criticize the earlier decisions that Mrs Fisher's maintenance should continue. But that as her young son got older the time would come, possibly in about two years time, when her total dependence on her former husband could not be expected to continue.

The judges raised her maintenance from £5,625 to £7,500 a year and that of her eldest son Jonathan, aged 16, a legitimate son, to £2,600 a year.

The trial continues today.

## Train halted

A Glasgow to Plymouth InterCity train crowded with passengers had to make an emergency stop at Westford, Somerset, earlier this week after vandals tampered with warning lights beside the track. Police are questioning schoolchildren in the area.

## Boxer for trial

Maurice Hope, the former WBC light middleweight champion accused of obstruction under the Drugs Act and assault on police, was committed to Snaresbrook Crown Court, London, for trial by Old Street magistrates yesterday.

## Escapers held

David Fell, aged 24, and Thomas Turnbull, aged 37, who escaped from Norwich prison a fortnight ago when they hijacked a prison coach at Kniffpoint, were recaptured yesterday after police raided council flats half a mile from the prison.

## City yearning

A campaign to turn Mrs Margaret Thatcher's home town of Grantham, Lincolnshire, into a city was launched by councillors yesterday. The first move is to try to get the parish church of St Wulfram's designated a cathedral.

## BMA support for random breath tests

The British Medical Association yesterday promised its support to proposed new legislation which would allow a form of random breath tests for suspected drink drivers (Thomson Prentice writes).

Mr John Home Robertson, Labour MP for East Lothian, is to introduce a private member's Bill in the next parliamentary session which would empower police to conduct roadside checks.

He said yesterday that about 1,000 deaths and 24,000 injuries a year were caused in Britain by drink drivers, but that the chances of a motorist being detected for excess alcohol were low.

Mr John Havard, secretary of the BMA, said: "We are bound to support this Bill in the hope that it will reduce the number of casualties."

## Heart surgery veteran dies

By Thomson Prentice Science Correspondent

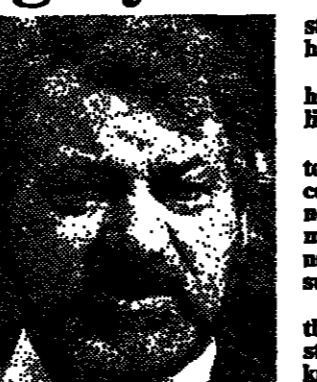
Britain's longest surviving heart transplant patient died yesterday, almost nine years after his operation, in spite of an attempt to save him with a second transplant.

Mr Nigel Olney, aged 44, was readmitted to Papworth Hospital, Cambridgeshire, earlier this month because of arterial disease.

The second graft was performed by Mr Terence English, the pioneering consultant surgeon who gave him his first new heart on January 29, 1980.

However, his condition deteriorated rapidly three days ago and he died early yesterday morning.

Mr Olney, a former chiropractor, devoted much of the last years of his life to raising funds for heart transplant operations at Papworth, as did



Mr Keith Castle, who died in 1985 almost six years after his operation. Mr Castle was then Britain's longest heart transplant survivor.

Mr Stephen Bridge, a spokesman for Papworth Hospital, said yesterday: "Nigel was a likeable chap who became very close with the

staff and worked very hard to help us whenever he could.

"He treated every day since his operation as a bonus to his life."

Two years ago Mr Olney took part in a tree-planting ceremony at Wimpole Park, near Cambridge, to commemorate the anonymous donors whose deaths led to many such operations.

He said then: "Apart from the doctors and the medical staff at Papworth, I don't know who I owe my life to. But I honour that person today."

Mr Olney, who was divorced, lived in Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire.

About 1,000 heart transplant operations have been performed in Britain in the past 10 years, during which period the length of survival has steadily increased.

About 80 per cent of patients live at least five years after their operation.

## Safe manager 'terrorized'

The manager of a London safe deposit centre was forced at gunpoint to become the inside man for a gang which escaped with valuables worth £40 million in July 1987, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Mr Valerio Vicci, the alleged leader of the gang, was said to have boasted about his violent past and threatened to murder Mr Parvez Latiff, manager of the Knightsbridge Safe Deposit Centre if he did not help pull off what was to be the biggest such robbery in Britain.

Mr Vicci, aged 33, denied the allegations.

Mr John Mathew, QC, for Mr Latiff, suggested that Mr Vicci first terrorized his client while on a visit to the manager's home. "You produced a gun which you held to his head."

Mr Mathew suggested that, for 15 to 20 minutes, Mr

Vicci was "ranting and raving, threatening Latiff's family, his mother and his sister and saying in the most obscene language that you know where they lived."

Mr Vicci replied: "That is not my style."

Mr Mathew said: "You told him you looked upon yourself as a killing machine."

He also suggested that, after watching the film *Scarface* many times, Mr Vicci became obsessed with that character and allegedly saw himself as sharing the screen villain's obsession with guns, violence, drugs and girls.

Mr Vicci denied the allegation.

The court was told that the defendant had a string of previous convictions in Italy, but Mr Vicci said he had deliberately confessed to British police about five bank raids in London in an attempt to be extradited to Italy. "I

told police a pack of lies", he said.

The court was also told that an Italian court was set up in Brixton prison after Mr Vicci's arrest in connection with the Knightsbridge raid, to try him on terrorist charges. Italian judges and lawyers were flown to London to hear the trial in the jail where Mr Vicci was on remand.

Mr Mathew said: "You were charged with being a party to the attempted blowing up of an Italian railway express in 1974."

Mr Vicci said: "Yes".

The court acquitted him of involvement in the plot.

Asked if the prosecution in Italy was appealing against the verdict, Mr Vicci said that was not true. He also denied suggestions that he had been involved with a neo-fascist terrorist gang.

The trial continues today.

## Father urges death penalty

By Mark Souster

The father of Lorraine Benson, the photographer who was murdered, yesterday called for the restoration of the death penalty.

Mr Michael Benson, aged 50, said he had long believed that hanging should be the "ultimate penalty" for murder.

Speaking at his home in South Norwood, south-east London, where he is comforting his wife, Pat, and two other daughters, Karen, aged 28 and Tanya, aged 25, Mr Benson said: "There is no doubt in my mind that capital punishment would and should be the ultimate deterrent."

Mr Benson, a taxi driver, whose daughter was murdered

on her way to visit a friend in Raynes Park, south-west London, on Monday night, said: "I think there should be a referendum. This sort of thing is happening every week, every day almost."

"There is no deterrent and in a civilized country like ours there should be."

An inquest into Miss Benson's death was opened and adjourned until January 4 yesterday by Dr Paul Knapman, who ordered that Lorraine's body be held for further examinations.

Dr Rufus Crompton, the pathologist who conducted the post-mortem examination, gave the cause of death as ligature strangulation. Tests are still being carried

out to see whether she was sexually attacked.

Speaking after the inquest, Detective Inspector Arthur Benham said: "There is no evidence at this stage to suggest that she had been raped."

He said police were investigating possible links with the Kingston rapist, who has struck three times over the past four months near stations along the same railway line.

A group of Conservative MPs today called on Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, to restore the death penalty for the murder of police officers. The call comes in a Commons motion signed by 18 backbenchers in the wake of the shooting of a policeman in Coventry.

## Record damages for road crash injury

By Our Legal Affairs Correspondent

A sports enthusiast who suffered irreversible brain damage which confined him to a wheelchair after he was knocked down by a car received £938,801 record road crash injury damages in the High Court in London yesterday.

Making the award to Mr Mark Bishop, aged 22, Mr Justice Otton praised as an "inspiration to all" Mr and Mrs William Bishop, his parents, who have since devoted their lives to caring for their son at their home in Old Hedsford Road, Cannock, West Midlands.

The judge also criticized the health services for failing to provide adequate support for the family after the accident.

Giving judgement after a hearing at Birmingham High Court, Mr Justice Otton said he found it "remarkable" that they had done what they did without "one single day of assistance". There

appears to have been a total lack of support from the health services. They paid no follow-up visits and there was no assistance in the form of equipment for them."

The previous highest award in respect of road crash injuries was £750,000 in 1987 to Mr Robert Humphries.

The highest damages award for any personal injury case was £1,032,000 in July 1987, to Mr Samir Aboul-Hosn, a brilliant student who suffered irreversible brain damage after an operation to remove a cyst from his brain.

Mr Bishop, who was knocked over as he crossed Old Hedsford Road, Cannock, in 1984, was awarded damages and costs against David Hannaford, the car driver, of Sherbourne Avenue, Hedsford.

In 1985 he admitted reckless driving. The judge imposed a 28-day stay on

payment of any damages above £750,000 pending consideration of an appeal. The judge said Mr Bishop suffered irreversible brain damage which left him confined to a wheelchair, unable to walk, stand, talk or understand anything said to him.

Before the accident he was a keen sportsman. Afterwards he was in hospital for eight months and his parents spent about six hours each day by his hospital bed.

When he was released from hospital they took on the task of giving him 24-hour-a-day care at home. His father, who had been made redundant and had planned to start his own business, abandoned those plans. His mother, who had been a partner at an antique and second-hand furniture shop, gave up her work.

The judge said: "It is not going too far to say that they are inspirational."

45 DAYS TO GO

# SKY TELEVISION

THE RIGHT CHOICE

## HUGE MOVIE DEAL

More fabulous films are headed for Sky Movies as Britain's leader in satellite television signs with another major Hollywood studio. Warner Brothers joins Twentieth Century Fox and Touchstone; more are to come

SKY MOVIES will make your day - every day! Clint Eastwood and Harrison Ford are coming to Sky in two new smash hit films that guarantee even more thrills on Britain's first and finest film channel.

Signed by Sky for its British television premiere is Eastwood in *Dead Pool*, in which he returns to his fabulous role as Dirty Harry, the toughest cop in San Francisco.

And Harrison Ford is coming to Sky in *Frantic*, the new thriller in which he is caught in a web of international terrorism and intrigue.

It adds up to even more proof that viewers are certain to be the big winners when they get in the beam of Sky Movies.

The new film deal with Warner is the third signed by Sky with top Hollywood studios. Twentieth Century Fox and Disney's Touchstone are already on board!

The multi-million dollar deal means that films that haven't even been released yet have already been reserved specially for subscribers to Sky Movies before they're televised anywhere else.

Sky Movies' deal with Warner guarantees that the hit films will keep on coming. Coming up are such hits as:

● Stanley Kubrick's disturbing *Full Metal Jacket*, the tough, uncompromising vision of the Vietnam war.

● *Witches of Eastwick*, with the all-star cast of Jack Nicholson, Cher, Susan Sarandon and Michelle Pfeiffer.

● *Nuts*, marking Barbara Streisand's return to the movies, alongside Richard Dreyfuss.

● *Police Academy 4*, the smash hit comedy with Steve Guttenberg.

● *The Lost Boys*, the cult horror-comedy, and Joe Dante's *Innerspace*.

These top movies are all in addition to the hit films being provided by Twentieth Century Fox which include *Wall Street*, *Broadcast News*, *Aliens*, *The Fly*, *Star Wars* and *Jumping Jack Flash*.

The best of the classics will also be on Sky Movies - pictures such as *The Sound of Music* and *South Pacific*.

"We now have an unbeatable list of movies," said Andrew Neil, executive chairman of Sky television. "Warner has a wonderful reputation for distributing films that work extremely well in the UK."

Added Bob Daly, chairman of Warner Brothers: "I am sure this is the start of a long and very positive relationship with Sky."

Sky Movies offers viewers the best and most exciting bargain in Britain. Sky Movies costs just £12 a month, and viewers can watch all the thrills on the film channel as well as the family entertainment on The Disney Channel.



Coming to Sky Movies: Harrison Ford and Emmanuelle Béart in the thriller *Frantic*; Jack Nicholson in the steamy *Witches of Eastwick*



● The countdown is on.  
45 days to go and Sky Television will be broadcasting an unrivalled selection of programme choice. Whether you want to be entertained or informed, Sky will give you the option

## Six new Sky channels for just £199

UNLIMITED choice and unlimited entertainment are heading to your television set. Sky's Astra satellite is safely in orbit and ready to bring the television revolution to your home.

With the countdown at 45 days before the first programmes go on the air, Sky is getting ready to launch Britain's biggest and brightest entertainment schedule.

All you need to join in the fun is a satellite dish - they go on sale after Christmas, with prices starting at just £199.

And Sky works with your current TV set - there's no need to buy a new one to watch.

The six-channel Sky package is the best bargain in Britain, with something for everyone in the family - from news to sport, blockbuster films

to the best in the arts, along with the top entertainment shows and family programmes.

Starting February 5, you'll be able to watch Sky Channel, Europe's leading entertainment station offering soap operas, rock music, game

shows, mini-series and made-for-television films.

You'll also get Sky News, Britain's first 24-hour news station, with top presenters and reporters covering the big stories when the news is still hot.

Among the latest batch of

quality recruits to the Sky News team are the award-winning journalist Howard Foster, formerly of the Daily Mail, Today and The Times, and Richard Ellis, previously a reporter on The Sunday Times and New York correspondent for The Sun.

Sport action will be on call on Eurosport, a channel of non-stop tennis, golf, football, rugby, basketball and the other top sports.

Sky Arts, Britain's performance channel, will offer a feast of culture - drama, music, opera and the visual arts.

And there's a fabulous extra-value film and family entertainment package, too. For just £12 each month, viewers can tune to Sky Movies, Britain's first and best satellite film channel, as well as the fabulous

Disney Channel, the world's best family entertainment network! The Disney Channel, already a smash hit in America, features programmes for the children during the day, shows for the whole family in the evening, and films and specials of interest to the grown-ups at night.

Now your family can join in the fun of the Magic Kingdom, without leaving home!

Viewers who buy the dish for Sky can be sure they're ready for the future. In the months ahead, even more English-language programming will become available on our Astra satellite. In two years, when a second satellite is launched, there will be up to 32 channels to choose from.

Sky is the new wave in television - and it will be here in just 45 days!



Margaret Thatcher at Astra's Luxembourg headquarters

## Sky scoop top war journalist from BBC

THE BBC's most experienced war correspondent, award-winner Christopher Morris, is joining the prestigious line-up of Sky News presenter/reporters. Christopher Morris leaves the BBC after 21 years, during which time he has reported from more than 60 countries, many of them war zones.



Chris Morris

Morris has reported from war-torn territories including Argentina during the Falklands conflict, Lebanon, the Gulf, Nicaragua and Northern Ireland. He has been in the firing line on several occasions in his efforts to get his story to air. Morris was also the only TV journalist to accompany Bob Geldof on all his visits to famine-stricken Africa. He leaves Australia, where he is correspondent for both the BBC and The Times, to join Sky News.

Sky News has also hired Tim Miles, Fleet Street's most respected crime reporter, to cover crime stories for Sky. Miles, former Daily Mail news editor and Sun journalist, recently turned playwright, dramatising a murder he covered as a reporter.

### SKY LINES

**COME ON DOWN**  
Top-rating game show, *The Price Is Right*, returns to British screens next year on Sky Channel. This big prize game show will be made at Central TV's Nottingham studios by Talbot Television. There'll be lots of prizes and a new presenter for the new look *Price Is Right*. If you can get together a party of 20-45 people who would like to "Come on down", write with an SAE to: Audiences, The Price Is Right, East Midlands

TV Centre, Lenton Lane, Nottingham, NG7 2NA.

**POT OF GOLD**  
Spot the talent! *Pot of Gold* is an exciting talent show making its debut on Sky Channel next February. Artists will come from many different walks of life, ranging from traditional vocalists and stand-up comics to rock bands and contortionists. If you want to show off your talent on satellite TV, write with an SAE to *Pot of Gold*, Reg Grundy Productions, Johnson House, Coronation Road, Park Royal, London NW10 7QE.

**High street dish bonanza**

PRODUCTION of the 24" Amstrad Fidelity dish is in full swing at Concentric Ltd in West Bromwich. This company has been chosen to produce up to one million dishes next year.

In keeping with Chairman Alan Sugar's pledge, made at the launch of Sky Television in June, more than half of the components will be made in Great Britain.

"The clamour from the retailers has been deafening", said Amstrad Group Sales and Marketing Director, Malcolm Miller. "We know that satellite television is going to be a great success."

Amstrad Fidelity equipment will be in the shops after Christmas, ready for the February launch of Sky Television.

● HIGH street stores across Britain are gearing-up to meet the satellite TV demand in the New Year. Interested customers



Alan Sugar

can walk into any Dixons or Currys store and ask all about satellite TV.

Dishes range from £199.99 to £259 in these stores, and there's a priority booking form to reserve satellite systems today and beat the rush after Christmas.

"Most customers will want their dishes professionally installed to the highest standards," said Dixons Stores Group M.D. John Clare. "We are establishing a dedicated team offering the best satellite system installation and after sales support."

"Installation is expected to cost about £65, so for a total outlay of well under £300 our customers will be able to more than double their viewing options."

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Extradition in drugs rin

# Ministry accused of mismanagement on dockyards switch

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

The Ministry of Defence has been accused of sustained mismanagement over the privatization of the royal dockyards at Devonport and Rosyth.

A report published yesterday by the Conservative-controlled Commons public accounts committee said the introduction of commercial management had done practically nothing to increase competition in warship work.

The MPs doubted expected savings at the dockyards and accused the ministry of renegeing on undertakings and withholding information.

Mr Martin O'Neill, shadow Secretary of State for Defence, said: "This report confirms the worst fears many of us expressed in the run-up to privatization. There was always a worry that this unnecessary process was being carried through in order to prove the resolve of the MoD to be as ideologically sound as the other privatizing ministries."

Mr Robert Sheldon, the committee chairman, said the report showed "considerable uncertainty about the benefits of the changeover to commercial management". Devonport was transferred to a consortium called Devonport Management Ltd, and Rosyth to Babcock Thorn in April 1987, in spite of widespread

opposition from MPs and trade unions.

The ministry publicly predicted savings of £162 million over seven years, but the committee says in its report that those costings were based on many uncertainties and invalid assumptions, including an over-optimistic view of the savings that could have been achieved under continuing government management.

The MPs say the MoD "exaggerated the cost benefits in the short term" and that "future savings on the scale claimed will be difficult to achieve", particularly as the ministry's warship refit programme had been reduced.

The ministry had originally promised direct comparison between the performance of the dockyards under its own and under commercial management, but now said that was impossible.

The ministry had promised competition from the outset between the dockyards and other private companies.

In fact, the MoD planned to invite tenders for just one warship refit before 1994.

Most ministry work would go to the dockyards. Bids for the commercial management contracts lacked important information.

The ministry admitted that in the end a "subjective

judgement" had to be made about bids.

The MPs were scathing about the performance of the dockyards in the run-up to the transfer. "Delays were reported on many projects, the poor standard of refit work on one submarine was the subject of a ministry board of inquiry, and the standard of other jobs was also adversely affected."

The committee ordered a special investigation by the National Audit Office after Dr David Owen, the SDP leader and MP for Devonport, produced evidence suggesting the Government knew before the 1987 general election that there would be 3,400 redundancies at Devonport but kept quiet about it.

The audit office exonerated the ministry from having given the committee inaccurate information, but the MPs said they were "concerned" that the ministry did not tell them of its planned reductions in workload for the dockyards.

They were "surprised" at the 760 staff employed in the body set up by the MoD to manage its relations with the Dockyards. This was three times as many as the organization it replaced.

Public Accounts Committee: Ministry of Defence: Transfer of Royal Dockyards to Commercial Management (Stationery Office, £6.30).

# Father Christmas arrives early

JAMES MORGAN



Danny Hawkey, aged four, and his sister, Jemma, aged two, from Leyton, north-east London, collecting presents yesterday given by Capital Radio's listeners. Thousands contributed to the station's "Share a Capital Christmas" toy and food appeal, in aid of pensioners and deserving children. More than 1,000 charities in the South-east will benefit from the scheme.

# Soldier made bomb 'because he was bored'

A soldier denied yesterday that he intended to harm anyone when he planted a bomb which "totally ruined" the life of a boy aged four.

James Cobb, aged 19, a private in the Royal Green Jackets, of Putney, south-west London, told a jury at the Central Criminal Court that he was on leave when he made the bomb as an experiment. He was bored.

He put materials in a plastic bottle and

used part of a hand grenade as a detonator, hiding the device by a wall near his home.

Mr Cobb claimed he intended making a firework-type device which would "go off with a big bang".

He said: "I knew what I was doing but I didn't think about the consequences. I wasn't thinking about safety."

The court was told that a neighbour's son, Michael Walsh, picked up the bottle

out of curiosity, thinking it contained a drink. The bomb exploded, covering him in a blazing, sticky substance which turned him into a fireball.

Neighbours saved his life by beating out the flames but he suffered ghastly injuries and is scarred for life.

Mr Cobb denies using explosives with intent to injure and causing grievous bodily harm.

The trial was adjourned until today.

# De Savary plans for a 'mini Venice'

Mr Peter de Savary unveiled plans yesterday to turn a Victorian seaside resort into a modern, £200 million mini-Venice.

He hopes to create a huge leisure, housing and business park surrounded by water at Weston-super-Mare, Avon. It approved, the park could be ready for the opening of the single European market in 1992.

Mr De Savary's plan to transform a former airstrip at Weston will create 3,000 jobs. The 420-acre site, involves light industrial units and workshops, waterside homes divided by canals, leisure facilities, including artificial ski slopes, a rowing lake and an Olympic-size swimming pool; and a luxurious hotel and heli-port.

Mr Nigel Massey, Mr De Savary's marketing director, said: "The plan has been likened to Venice - there will be a lot of water there. We hope people will enjoy living there. Mr De Savary's commitment is to responsible social planning."

Mr De Savary, co-ordinating the scheme for Leisure Investment, will submit an outline planning application in February. He chose Weston for its excellent communication links by motorway, air, and sea.

"In this country we are missing the boat", he said. "People across the water have the initiative. With the Weston Europark, we are doing something about it."

# French to create 1,000 Ulster jobs

By Tina Jones, Employment Affairs Correspondent

More than 1,000 jobs will be created in Northern Ireland as a result of a £90 million investment programme announced yesterday, which will bring work to one of Britain's worst unemployment blackspots and help to counter international criticism, particularly from the United States that not enough is done to help out-of-work Roman Catholics.

Montupet, the French company, said it was to set up a high-tech factory producing aluminium castings for car engines on the site once used by the De Lorean sports car company on the edge of republican west Belfast.

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said the investment, backed by the Industrial Development Board, bore "no comparison at all" with the De Lorean affair.

Amid a political storm, Mr John De Lorean's "gull-winged" sports car venture crashed with the loss of £77 million of taxpayers' money in 1982. Only about £6 million was recovered.

However, Mr King refused to comment on reports that at least half of the £90 million investment was being funded by the taxpayer. Financial details of the deal were "commercially confidential".

He said the investment was the biggest single project yet to be secured by the development board and the largest initial investment made by any overseas company in Northern Ireland. Most of the

output from the factory, at which production is scheduled to begin in early 1990, will go to the Ford plant at Bridgend in South Wales.

It will employ about 920 within five years and another 110 will be recruited to staff a toolroom at a site yet to be decided.

Montupet decided to establish the plant in Northern Ireland after considering sites in England, Wales, Spain and Portugal.

Mr Stephane Maggan, the Montupet chairman, said terrorism had not influenced the decision. "It is very different when you look at it on television and when you are in the country."

He said the question of terrorism had bothered them in the beginning but, after visiting the province, they found it was not a significant problem.

Mr Marc Majus, the financial controller, said: "The Government's support is significant but it is not the main factor why we chose Belfast. The people, the availability of labour, an existing building which means we can start production more easily and marketing issues played their part."

Mr King said: "This is more good news for jobs in Northern Ireland at the end of a year that has seen a substantial fall in unemployment."

Last month, Daewoo, the Korean company, announced plans to build a video recorder factory in the province, creating 500 jobs.

# Extradition plea in drugs ring case

Two men charged in connection with a drug smuggling ring involving Howard Marks, the drugs baron, faced extradition proceedings to the United States at Bow Street Magistrates' Court, central London, yesterday.

They were alleged to have assisted in the conspiracy - which obtained cannabis and marijuana from communist countries for supply along the west coast of the US - by supplying false passports or travel arrangements.

James Newton, aged 56, a solicitor, of Kinnerton Place, Knightsbridge, west London, and Balendo Lo, aged 29, a travel agent, of The Avenue, Brondesbury Park, London, are both accused of conspiring to import dangerous drugs into the state of Florida.

Mr Alun Jones, representing the US Government, said the two became involved in the drugs scene after their association with Howard Marks, who is in Spain awaiting extradition.

Mr Newton, who is alleged to have supplied passports to the "organization" was said to have been aware of the conspiracy.

He was introduced to Marks through Lord Moynihan, the half brother of Mr Colin Moynihan, Minister for Sport.

"By the virtuous supply of passports he [Newton] was taking part in that conspiracy", Mr Jones said.

The part played by Lo is he

supplied travel arrangements and assisted in the conspiracy by helping and advising Howard Marks about laundering money by using his position as a travel agent", he said, explaining that Mr Lo had suggested purchasing airline vouchers which could be sold in other countries.

"Howard Marks is the principal conspirator in this case", Mr Jones said. "It is clear on the face of documents that he had been involved for the greater part of 20 years in importing cannabis in the US."

Mr Jones said Marks was involved in "cultivating and the movement of cannabis on a global scale and the target in America was the West Coast".

Mr Jones said Marks had told Lord Moynihan that if he were ever arrested in Spain on extradition charges, he had enough money to buy his way out.

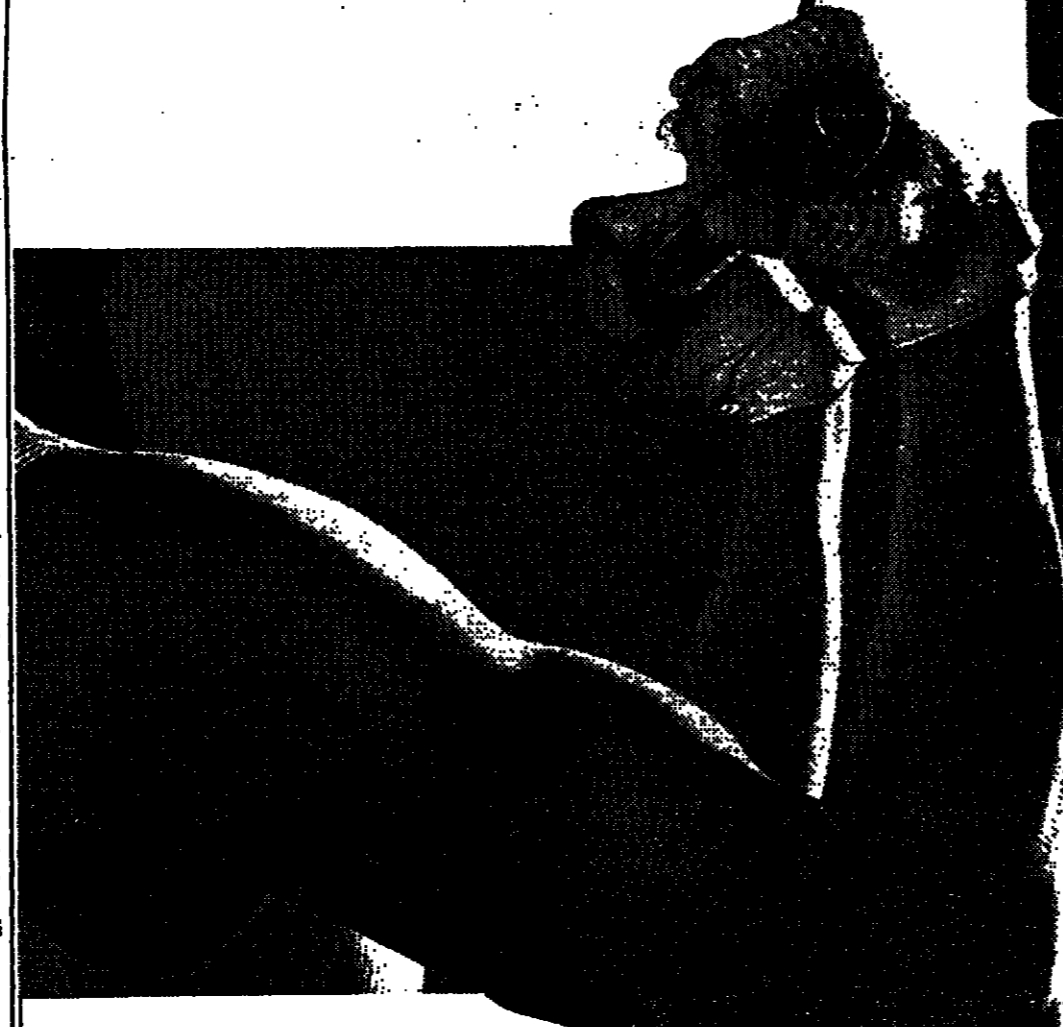
"He is a highly unusual and accomplished criminal who makes no secret that he is an international drug smuggler", Mr Jones said.

He said Lord Moynihan first met Marks at his home in the Philippines in 1985.

He had then received an autographed autobiography of Marks which portrayed him as a "notorious and glamorous figure" or as a "cult hero".

Lord Moynihan said in a statement Marks "wanted to start drug cultivating in the Philippines" and would pay more than £1 million.

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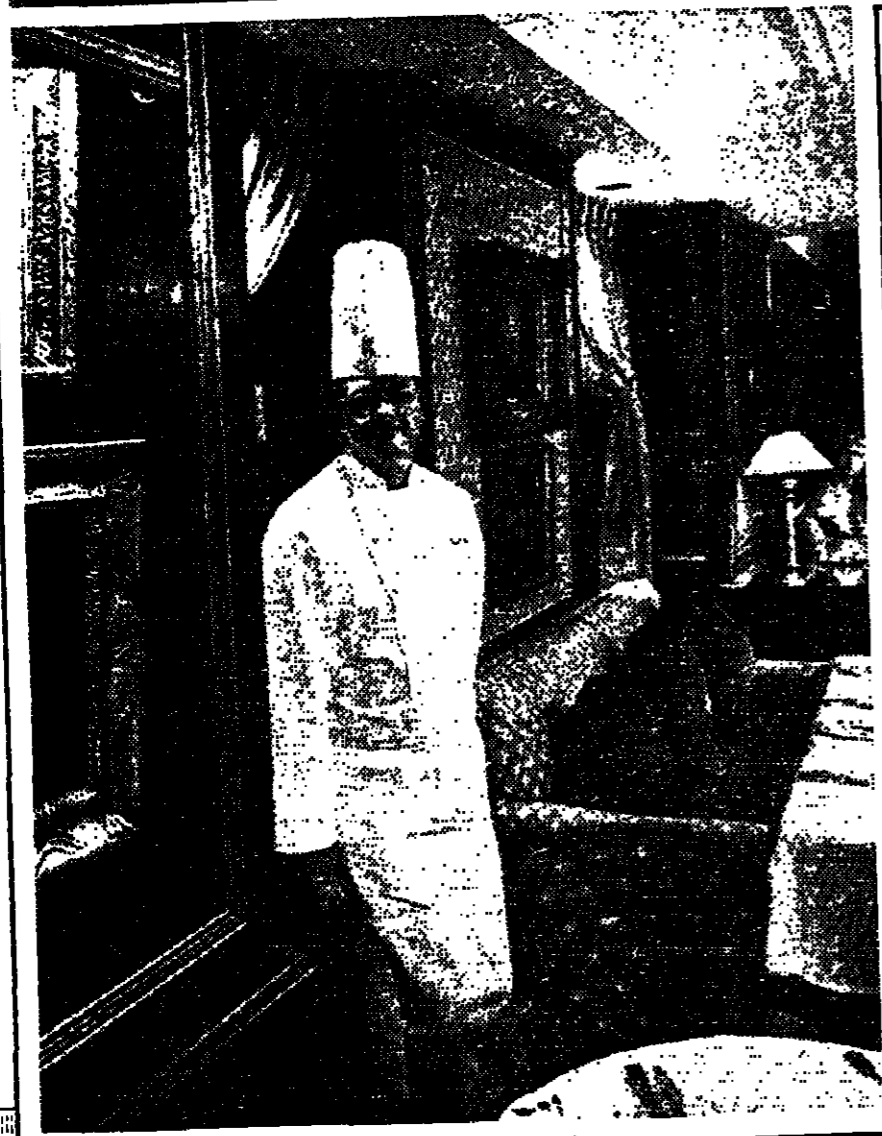


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Tokyo rela  
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# Moscow 'shame' at failure to join aid and disaster programmes

From Mary Dejevsky  
Moscow

The Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, has said that his country should be ashamed of its failure to join United Nations aid and disaster relief programmes.

He defended Soviet diplomats against recent domestic criticism of the Foreign Ministry's performance in the aftermath of the Armenian earthquake. Their consciences, he said, are clear.

In tone and in content, his interview was one of the frankest and most clearly committed to human rights and international openness to have been heard from a high-ranking Soviet official since Mr Gorbachev came to power. It

clearly sets him apart from some members of the leadership, including the new secretary in charge of ideology, Mr Vadim Medvedev, and Mr Yegor Ligachov, who is now responsible for agriculture. Both seem to take a much more cautious approach to such subjects.

Mr Shevardnadze's remarks came in the course of an interview he gave to the Russian language edition of the weekly *Moscow News*, before setting out for Japan. It followed a special meeting of Soviet diplomats in Moscow, called to discuss foreign policy after Mr Gorbachev's address to the UN General Assembly.

Mr Shevardnadze noted that the Soviet Union intended to mount a

close study of international standards of human rights in the new year with a view to making Soviet practice conform more closely to that of other countries.

He conceded that there were still gaps in Soviet human rights provisions and said that passing a law on entry and exit into the country was a matter of urgency, as was a law on freedom of conscience. The Soviet Union should, he said, aim to join the UN and European conventions relating to human rights.

In the past, he said, reservations had reflected fear of international monitoring mechanisms, because they looked like a threat to sovereignty, but now these had been accepted in arms control. In

one of the most direct statements about human rights to come from any Soviet leader, Mr Shevardnadze said that Soviet people needed strict and full guarantees of their rights and freedoms.

On Soviet participation in the United Nations, he said that with hindsight, the Soviet Union's failure to take part in UN consultative groups dealing with aid for the least developed countries and the UN Disaster Relief Organization were unjustified.

"There was a time," he said, "when we even voted against increasing the funds of the disaster relief operation. This time, the disaster has happened in our homeland, and the bureau has offered to help co-ordinate the

international relief effort and assist the victims of the earthquake in Armenia. What, other than shame, can we feel today about the shortsightedness of our former position?"

There were other areas, too, like consumer affairs and international legislation, where the Soviet Union had effectively opted out of UN work, but which it now recognized had a direct relation to perestroika. It now had to make up for lost time.

In an implicit criticism of the follow-up to Mr Gorbachev's UN speech, Mr Shevardnadze said that people had rightly asked which tanks the Soviet Union was proposing to scrap - new ones or old ones, and how was this going

to be monitored. These questions had to be answered honestly.

The Soviet Union had to state which tanks it intended to destroy and within what timescale. This could not be done at once because it required liaison with the Defence Ministry and other government bodies, but it needed to be done as soon as possible.

The first detailed plans for the troop withdrawals were being worked out and should be available at the beginning of next year.

Mr Shevardnadze also commented on the international response to the earthquake in Armenia. What was remarkable, he said, was that "our pain became the pain of the whole world. In those tragic days the world

community looked at us afresh, and saw in the Soviet people, perhaps for the first time for more than 40 years, not an abstract mass of people, but brothers in misfortune."

Mr Shevardnadze admitted that the ministry had been caught unprepared. But he said that no one could be held personally responsible.

He had praise for Soviet diplomats. The first offers of help from abroad, he said, came through diplomatic channels, and they were not rejected as they had been in the past. Indeed, he said, "our foreign colleagues were so used to the traditional hostility to offers from outside that they started to thank us."

# Tokyo relations stay frosty despite Shevardnadze visit

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, left Tokyo yesterday with little to show for a visit designed to defrost the Soviet Union's relations with Japan, pave the way for a peace treaty and possibly even fix a date for President Gorbachev to visit next year.

The outcome gives little joy to either country, although Japan feels the more betrayed.

Although both agreed to set up a committee to discuss the four islands in the Kurile chain off northern Japan, to which Japan lays claim but which have been occupied by the Soviet Union since 1945, the slow progress increases uncertainty about the dialogue between the two mightiest powers in the Asia-Pacific region. More broadly, it is a hiccup in Mr Gorbachev's efforts to repair neglected relationships in Asia.

Japan and the Soviet Union offered each other a ladder to climb down, but neither was keen to descend. Their positions, said a senior Japanese official, "differed completely" on what has become the main obstacle - a territorial dispute that has poisoned Japan-Soviet relations for decades.

After talking candidly and heatedly for three days, Mr Shevardnadze and Mr Sosuke Uno, his Japanese counterpart, said diplomatically that while the bond was still far

from warm, it was getting warmer. Bemused analysts who followed the spectacle called for thermometers to measure the thaw.

Japan is salvaging what it can by saying the meetings "strengthened the momentum for dialogue" - that is, nothing much happened this time but it might in future meet

Moscow (Reuter) - A Soviet woman who gave her first husband syphilis, contracted AIDS and infected at least eight other men has been jailed for four years for spreading dangerous diseases, a newspaper said yesterday. Identifying her as Olga L., it said the illness was detected from a blood sample after she had fallen off the balcony of a restaurant in a drunken stupor.

ings. But Tokyo feels that it has lost face.

Japan has been waiting for two and a half years for Mr Gorbachev to act on hints made in his famous speech in the Far Eastern port of Vladivostok to visit Tokyo as part of his bid to woo Asia.

Mr Shevardnadze's hazy pledge this week that a Tokyo visit was on the Soviet leader's agenda left Japan feeling snubbed again. Nor did Japan need Mr Shevardnadze to remind it, as he did, that Moscow's relations with other nations are changing, while those with Japan are frozen in the era of the Cold War.

Japan does not enjoy feeling isolated but it reckons that, in its economic power, it has the lever with which to make Moscow stop ignoring its

reluctant neighbour and treat Japan like the superpower it has become.

Moscow, which sees the islands as too important strategically to surrender, is not rushing to give away too much too soon. But the Russians are not happy to have left Tokyo without the promise of some Japanese cash to

boost their economy and to develop Siberia.

The Japanese did not expect Mr Shevardnadze's brief visit to solve the squabble over the islands.

But the Soviet Foreign Minister's first visit to Japan in almost three years had raised hopes here that he might produce the sort of show-stealer for which Mr Gorbachev is becoming famous.

Instead, Mr Shevardnadze summarized Moscow's steadfastness in a speech in which he told his hosts: "We can open a new chapter in the history of Soviet-Japan relations and we should open a new chapter."

"If there is an unsolved issue between us, we have to talk about that issue... But we can never make all other

issues hostage to solving this problem."

The prospect of a sudden change in this regged stalemate appears slim.

"I see the outcome as a disappointment for Japan," said Professor Hiroshi Terami, a Soviet expert at Aoyama Gakuin University in Tokyo. "I don't think this can be called one of the more successful areas of Japanese foreign policy."

"The Soviet Union's position on the islands is rigid and unchanged. But it wants economic co-operation from Japan so it has changed the atmosphere of the dispute by instituting regular meetings. This is a moratorium strategy."

"If there is no chance of progress, if Gorbachev has no present to give Japan, it would be difficult for him to come to Tokyo. Equally, Japan will find it difficult to dramatically increase economic co-operation without such a breakthrough."

Japan's biggest worry is that Moscow might offer enough inducements to lure South Koreans and Westerners into joint ventures that Japanese companies would also find attractive. If Japanese businessmen find the financial returns of doing business with Russia more persuasive than their Government's ideology, Japan might see its bargaining power dissolve.

# Garland greeting for Soviet minister



A well-wisher in Manila, marking the start of the first visit by a Soviet minister to the Philippines, hangs a garland on the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze.

Raul Manglapus, the Foreign Affairs Secretary, before leaving for North Korea (AFP reports).

Officials from both countries earlier said they expected the talks to cover the presence of United States military bases in the Philippines, Subic Bay and Clark

Air Base, Soviet forces in Vietnam, the Cambodian problem, and efforts to boost bilateral trade.

While remaining a firm Western ally, the Philippines is seeking increased trade, and political and cultural ties with Eastern bloc countries.

## WORLD ROUNDUP

### Three ministers resign in Quebec

Ottawa - Three of the four English-speaking members of the Quebec Cabinet have resigned in protest against a decision by the Canadian Government to impose new restrictions on English signs in the province (John Best writes).

Mr Clifford Lincoln, the Environment Minister, Mr Richard French, Communications Minister, and Mr Herbert Marx, Solicitor-General, announced their resignations in Quebec City the day after a Bill incorporating the restrictions was unveiled. Under the proposed law, French alone will be permissible on signs outside business premises in Quebec, which is predominantly French-speaking.

The Quebec Government of Premier Robert Bourassa plans to invoke overriding clauses in both the Canadian and Quebec charters of rights to forestall challenges to the new law based on the contention that it violates freedom of expression guarantees. Meanwhile Mr Brian Mulroney, the Canadian Prime Minister, promised to meet the ten provincial premiers early next year to try to salvage the Meech Lake accord, a plan for bringing Quebec into the Canadian constitutional fold that is on the verge of collapse partly because of developments in Quebec.

### Oliver North trial set

Washington - A federal judge yesterday set January 31, 11 days after the inauguration of President-elect George Bush, for the start of the trial of former Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North, the White House aide charged with diverting to the Contras rebels of Nicaragua millions of dollars from secret sales of US weapons to Iran (Michael Binyon writes). The date, which virtually rules out any possibility of a pardon by President Reagan, is the second set by Judge Gerhard Gesell after he acted to protect national secrets after Mr North's threat to expose classified information during testimony.

### UN team for Angola

New York (Reuter) - The Security Council has unanimously approved the establishment of a small United Nations observer mission to oversee the phased withdrawal of some 50,000 Cuban troops from Angola by July 1991. The team, called the UN Angola Verification Mission (Unavem), will consist of 70 military observers and 20 civilian support personnel. It will have a 31-month mandate and cost about \$30.4 million (£ 11.3 million).

### Gandhi visits Deng

Peking - After almost 30 years of strained Sino-Indian relations, the Chinese leader, Mr Deng Xiaoping, yesterday greeted the Indian Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, as "my young friend" (Catherine Sampson writes). The two met on the last day of Mr Gandhi's visit to Peking. "Beginning with your visit, we can restore our relationship as friends - the two countries' leaders will become friends, the countries will become friends," Mr Deng said.

### Faith in democracy

The semi-official Athens news agency said last night that Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos, the government spokesman, yesterday criticized leading articles in *The Times* and *The Washington Post* (Our Foreign Staff writes). In response to a *Times* article which he said called for Western intervention in Greek internal politics in order to avert a military coup, he said: "Some people, either intentionally or encouraged by foreign and domestic 'visionaries' or irregular solutions, confuse the Greece of 1988 with the Greece of 1965 and 1967."

"We would like to inform them that they are deluding themselves pitifully. Democracy in our land today has unshakable foundations and no presumptive violator of popular freedoms and constitutional order can have the slightest hope of realizing his unlawful plans."

"The Government of Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu has the power and the will, but most of all the support of the majority of the people, to confront any attempt to adulterate and violate the institutions."

# Cosmonauts achieve their year in space - almost

By Pearce Wright  
Science Editor

Man's longest space flight ended yesterday, but the two Russian cosmonauts were nevertheless deprived by a technicality of the record they had attempted to set.

Since 1988 is a leap year with 366 days, Colonel Vladimir Titov, aged 46, and Colonel Musa Manarov 37, were in space about 80 minutes short of a full year.

In fact, the Russian cosmonauts and a Frenchman, Air Force General Jean-Loup Chretien, had an unplanned extra three hours in space

because the memory of a computer on board their return capsule overloaded.

After fixing the problem, the crew parachuted safely in a Soyuz TM6 capsule to Soviet Central Asia yesterday.

The two cosmonauts spent 365 days, 22 hours and 39 minutes in orbit in the Mir space station, breaking the previous endurance mark set by Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Romanenko in 1987.

The initial hitch that delayed their return to Earth was the second serious problem in the Soviet manned space programme this year. In September,

equipment malfunctions and crew error delayed the landing of a Soviet and an Afghan spaceman as they ran low on food and air.

"It's nothing, boys. You flew for a year, so you can wait another two orbits. Let Jean-Loup look at Paris from above one more time," the flight director, Mr Valery Rymyn, told the crew after the initial attempt at landing was aborted, according to *Izvestia*.

Tass reported on Tuesday that the cosmonauts had completed one year in orbit, but the news agency said yesterday that they had received

incorrect information from Mission Control about the length of the flight.

Yesterday's problems began shortly after the Soyuz TM6 separated from the Mir orbiting complex, where Colonel Titov and Colonel Manarov spent most of their time in space. An on-board computer that controls landing signalled that its memory was overloaded, and automatically stopped preparations for the descent.

"The Mission Control Centre decided to take a 'time-out' to figure out the situation," *Izvestia* said. Tass

said that the computer's memory became overloaded because of new software installed to prevent a repetition of the problems that plagued the Afghan-Soviet mission. The problem was traced to "the faulty interaction of some of the new software with the old package of programmes".

The new computer programmes were designed to ensure smooth operation of an infra-red sensor that orients the capsule for its return to Earth. On September 7, the Soviet and Afghan cosmonauts had to delay their landing a full day because the

infra-red sensor did not lock onto the proper target.

After yesterday's failure, the crew switched to a back-up computer programme.

The space trio had been scheduled to land near Arkalyk, in Kazakhstan, but because of the delay the trajectory was changed and they touched down 110 miles south-east of the city of Dzhezkazgan. Doctors met them at the spot and the cosmonauts were whisked to the Star City space training centre, where they will undergo rehabilitation from the effects of a year in space.

# Lorry saved sole survivor of Armenia air crash

From Mary Dejevsky  
Moscow

A mechanic aged 30, the sole survivor of the air crash which killed nearly 70 Soviet servicemen at Leninakan airport on December 11, told yesterday how he was saved because he was sitting inside the plane in the cabin of a heavy lorry.

Mr Fakhretin Balayev said the aircraft had been delayed for two days by bad weather. It eventually took off in darkness, and he was one of the last to board. As there were no seats left, he climbed into the cabin of a heavy lorry which was being taken to the disaster area.

He said he felt the aircraft beginning its descent for landing and then gain height again suddenly. Then he blacked out. When he woke he was lying on rocks, had mist

front of his eyes, and everything around him was on fire.

He stood up, screamed for help, and ran as fast as he could. After a few hundred yards he felt a sharp pain in his back and fell. Behind him he heard an explosion and saw flames shooting into the sky.

In the morning he was found by local people. He was taken by helicopter to Leninakan, given a pain-killing injection and transferred to hospital in Yerevan where he is being treated for a fractured spine.

Mr Balayev said that he and his fellow servicemen in the aircraft were all reservists called up to help with the relief operation. He had been summoned to the Army office, given a uniform and ration, allocated to a team and put on a bus to the airport. They were all addressed

Moscow - The Soviet Union is to allow four of Mother Teresa's order of nuns, the Missionaries of Charity, to work at a Moscow hospital, initially for six months (Mary Dejevsky writes). Another four will work temporarily in Yerevan, treating earthquake victims. Mother Teresa was in Moscow yesterday after visiting Armenia and said an agreement had been signed that morning.

by a General, who told them how serious the disaster was and how urgently their help was needed.

Details of the aircraft's departure point were not given, suggesting that it may have been from Azerbaijan.

Immediately after the earthquake the official media made much of the assistance being provided by Azerbaijan, in an attempt to show how

the disaster was eclipsing the dispute between the two republics. Now officials have admitted that this only inflamed the situation.

After reports reached Armenia that Azerbaijanis had danced in the streets and sent greeting telegrams when they heard of the earthquake, Azerbaijan relief workers were insulted and attacked.

The head of Azerbaijan's state planning committee said yesterday that 117,000 Azerbaijanis, mostly farmers and market gardeners, had arrived from Armenia, costing the republic two billion roubles (£2 billion). They have ignored attempts to persuade them to return.

Authorities completed the evacuation yesterday of old people, women and children from areas destroyed and damaged in the earthquake. Mr Stepan Shalayev,

head of the Soviet trade union movement, said that 86,400 people had been evacuated by air and rail.

Warning claim: Mr Nikolai Laverov, a leading Soviet seismologist, has accused the Armenian authorities of ignoring warnings about the risk of earthquakes. He claimed that forecasts compiled two years ago had singled out north-east Armenia as particularly dangerous.

He dismissed speculation that the earthquake had been caused by an underground nuclear or chemical explosion, and said that northern Armenia was still experiencing tremors nearly two weeks after the earthquake struck.

Brussels: The EEC is giving 8.5 million European currency units (£5.5 million) of emergency aid to help victims of the earthquake. Letters, page 15

# Abortion anger erupts over Bush choice of health chief

From Michael Binyon, Washington

An embarrassing row over abortion has stalled President-elect George Bush's nomination of a black doctor to be Secretary of Health and Human Services, and angry conservatives are lobbying the transition team to force a reconsideration of Mr Bush's choice.

The furor arose over remarks on Sunday by Dr Louis Sullivan, head of the Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, that he supported a woman's right to have an abortion.

The issue, which lurked beneath the rhetoric during the election campaign, is a litmus test for conservatives and anti-abortion groups, and led Mr Bush to announce that he favoured criminal penalties for doctors who practised abortion.

Dr Sullivan would be the first black named to the Bush

Cabinet. Caught in a dilemma as the controversy gathered force, Mr Bush cancelled a scheduled announcement of his appointment on Tuesday, and other Cabinet nominations have been held up as a result.

Transition team sources say Dr Sullivan is still the leading



Dr Sullivan: His comments reflected 'private' view.

candidate. He would be the first black to hold the job, a sensitive domestic post as the new Administration struggles to cope with Aids, rising medical costs, budget cuts and campaign promises to extend medical coverage to all Americans.

Should Dr Sullivan be dropped, black groups would see this as a sharp rebuff. Blacks have been hit disproportionately by Aids, medical costs and poor public medical care.

Yesterday, the *Atlanta Journal and Constitution* published a letter from Dr Sullivan in which he said that he opposed abortion except in cases of rape, incest or where a woman's life was endangered. He had no disagreement with Mr Bush's position. He said that his earlier remarks to the newspaper had reflected his private view.

# Cologne Catholics divided over choice of archbishop

From John England, Bonn

Roman Catholics in Cologne were yesterday still divided over the Pope's choice of Cardinal Joachim Meisner of Berlin as their new Archbishop after a 15-month power struggle between the city cathedral and the Vatican.

The Pope named Cardinal Meisner as Archbishop on Tuesday after lifting the special voting rules of the cathedral's 16-member chapter that required a candidate to win an absolute majority.

This allowed Cardinal Meisner, who is understood to have failed to be elected in several ballots, to win the post by a simple majority of six in succession to the late Cardinal Joseph Höffner, who died in September, 1987.

Cathedral spokesmen denied that the diocese had bowed to Vatican pressure, but the Pope's insistence on putting his candidate in the

archbishop's chair has caused resentment among many of Cologne's 2.5 million Catholics. One local newspaper spoke of the Pope "breaking a lot of china".

Ironically, Cardinal Meisner, who will be 55 on Christmas Day, a conservative prelate who will be installed on February 12, does not want to leave East Berlin, from where he has ministered to Catholics on both sides of the divided city for almost nine years.

He told a press conference earlier this week: "I did not seek the Cologne post, but I am going there out of obedience to the Pope."

He added: "Cologne did not want me, and I did not want them - so at least we have something in common. I will do my best to turn this forced marriage into a love match."

In Cologne, however, a

cathedral spokesman said yesterday: "The tensions of the past year or more will take a long time to overcome."

The unseemly row, which also involved two state prime ministers and threatened at times to develop into a full-scale mutiny by the cathedral against the Vatican, is seen as being less about the person of Cardinal Meisner than over the Pope's uncompromising hard-line on papal authority.

Cologne is a rich diocese proud of its history. With a budget of more than \$281 million, it is the most affluent Catholic bishopric in the world and embraces 814 parishes and 928 churches.

Its archbishops were once powerful political figures and members of the aristocracy, and its special voting rights stem from a 1929 concordat between the Vatican and Prussia.

Israel's hardline coalition

Foreign policy will follow unbending Likud line on PLO

From Richard Owen, Jerusalem

Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, will today formally announce a new coalition Government of his Likud group with Labour.

The parties have agreed to refuse any talks with the Palestine Liberation Organization, despite attempts by Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, to prove its international respectability by renouncing terrorism. Instead Israel is to launch its own initiative based on limited autonomy on the West Bank.

Palestinian leaders immediately denounced the new Government's line, while left-wing Labour officials accused Mr Shimon Peres, the Labour leader and Foreign Minister in the outgoing coalition, of betraying Labour's commitment to a dialogue with the Palestinians.

Israeli newspapers claimed there was a "secret understanding" that Mr Peres, who becomes Finance Minister, would not intervene in foreign policy, which will be in Likud hands and will be based on firm opposition to the concept of an independent Palestinian state with PLO involvement.

Yesterday, Labour overwhelmingly endorsed the new coalition.

Likud had earlier approved the coalition after a lengthy central committee session marked by stormy exchanges and fist fights. Likud dissidents accused Mr Shamir of "selling out" to Labour by reneging on his post-election

promises to the religious parties, which want stricter laws excluding non-Orthodox Jewish converts from Israeli citizenship, and which had been led to believe that Mr Shamir would form a "narrow coalition" with them.

Yesterday, a Palestinian moderate, Mr Elias Freij, the Mayor of Bethlehem, told *The Times* that Washington had made an "historic and wise decision" in talking to the PLO. But he said Washington's repeated warnings to the PLO not to revert to

Jerusalem (AFP) - A 26-year-old Palestinian, shot in the stomach by Israeli troops during disturbances on the West Bank last Friday, died of his wounds yesterday, Palestinian sources said. He was the eighth Palestinian to die after clashes in and around Nablus that erupted during the funeral of a 15-year-old demonstrator, the sources said.

terrorism were making Palestinians "suspicious".

Mr Freij, who has cancelled almost all Christmas celebrations in Bethlehem because of "deaths and beatings during the intifada (uprising)", said that Likud's plan for limited autonomy on the West Bank would merely "legalize the occupation".

He added: "The PLO genuinely and sincerely wants to make peace with Israel, but I am very sorry to say that Israel's main parties, both

Labour and Likud, have no viable, clear peace option."

Diplomats said Mr Shamir had risked a Likud revolt and hence his own career to form another coalition with Labour because of the imperative need for a united Israeli response to the PLO's diplomatic success.

But in contrast to the earlier coalition, foreign policy will be in the hands of Mr Shamir and of his Likud colleague, Mr Moshe Arens, who is to replace Mr Peres as Foreign Minister.

Their foreign policy guidelines specifically exclude contact with the PLO, sources said, while empowering the Government to encourage "Arab representatives from Judea, Samaria and Gaza" - Likud's term for the occupied territories - to "take part in peace negotiations".

Israeli officials say this refers to proposals for free elections in the occupied territories, combined with limited self-government, provided security remains in Israeli hands. But Arab sources said it would be almost impossible for the Israeli authorities to find any credible Palestinian leader who could accede to such a plan unless the PLO was involved.

The proposed guidelines have further angered Palestinians by sanctioning eight new Jewish settlements on the West Bank during the first year of the coalition.

Letters, page 15

Lange rejoices after leadership battle



Mr David Lange, Prime Minister of New Zealand (right), and his deputy, Mr Geoffrey Palmer, savouring their triumph after Mr Lange won his Labour Party's leadership vote yesterday. He defeated Mr Roger Douglas, the Finance Minister, who was sacked in a policy

dispute. Mr Lange did not say how many votes he had received when he announced the outcome of the caucus poll, but Mr Douglas said later that there had been 38 votes for the Prime Minister, 15 for himself and two abstentions. A routine vote on the leadership had been sched-

uled for the new year but was brought forward after the sacking of Mr Douglas last week. Mr Douglas and Mr Lange have had a year-long feud over economic policy and the minister was dismissed after saying he would quit the Cabinet if Mr Lange were re-elected leader.

Alfonso denies concessions to rebels

Argentine Army's fifth shake-up

From Michael Llanos, Buenos Aires

Argentina's Army went through its fifth shake-up in five years yesterday, as President Alfonso denied before a special session of Congress that his Administration had made concessions to rebel army officers who mutinied earlier this month.

Senator Alfonso told Congress that his Administration "will not give in to threats to change its convictions".

But opposition leaders claimed that the speech lacked substance and noted that the shake-up and recent military pay increases were two of the demands made by the officers who staged Argentina's third mutiny in under two years.

The 800 rebels, led by Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin, occupied several army bases on December 2. The mutiny ended on December 6 after Colonel Seineldin negotiated a peaceful settlement

with an army mediator, General Isidro Caceres.

The officers mutinied to demand the resignation of the Army Chief of Staff, General Dante Caridi, increased defence spending and military pay, and an end to the trials of officers implicated in human rights crimes committed during the 1970s "dirty war".

General Caridi, who the rebels said did little to "defend the Army's honour," handed in his resignation on Tuesday. Senator Alfonso, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, yesterday named General Francisco Gassino as his fifth

Army Chief of Staff in five years of office.

General Gassino, until now Director of Military Education and an infantry officer like Colonel Seineldin, had seconded General Caridi in confronting the mutinous officers.

General Valentin Venier was named Deputy Chief of Staff and General Caceres, the rebels' choice to head the Army, was moved up the military ladder. Five generals senior to General Gassino will be forced into retirement due to the shake-up.

The pressure facing General

Caridi was reflected by the fact that he asked to be replaced. "He is not leaving because the President wants him to go," said Deputy Caesar Jaroslavsky of the ruling Radical Party. "He is going because he does not feel comfortable within the Army."

Other signs suggested that the Government had begun to address the rebels' demands, which military analysts agreed were not aimed at sparking a military coup. The rebels themselves emphasized that they were not after power and only sought to "restore the Army's honour".

Last week, the Government announced a 20 per cent pay increase for officers on top of inflation adjustments in November and December. It also granted a pay bonus, which in the case of junior officers represented up to a third of monthly take-home pay.

Military spending is also likely to be increased in 1989.

Rio state of emergency

Rio de Janeiro (AFP) - Senhor Roberto Saturnino Braga, the Mayor of Rio de Janeiro, has declared a state of emergency because of a strike by school and sanitation workers. He said that the crisis had intensified since some 114,000 municipal employees began their strike three months ago, paralysing public schools and 17 hospitals. The Bank of Brazil has now suspended a loan to the city after earlier freezing city assets.

Miami's £27m cocaine seizure

Miami (AP) - More than 6,700lbs of cocaine with a street value of \$50 million (£27.7 million) has been seized from two freighters arriving in Miami.

After 30 hours searching the *Santo Domingo Express*, which arrived from northern Colombia, agents found a secret compartment in a ballast tank containing 4,792lbs of the drug in packets, numbered and stuffed into duffel bags. In the other vessel, an Haitian freighter, 1,941 lbs of cocaine, also in duffel bags, was found inside a fuel tank.

Singer critical

Nashville (AP) - Johnny Cash, the country music singer, aged 56, was in critical but stable condition after heart surgery to clear a 90 per cent blockage of his main coronary artery.

Talks delayed

Paris (AFP) - Four-party talks on Cambodia's future due to open here yesterday were postponed for 24 hours because the representative of the Phnom Penh Government, Mr Hor Nam Hong, suffered a slight heart attack.

Theft inquiry

Manila (AP) - The British Embassy asked the Philippines to deport a Portuguese national, Mr Willie Yu Sit-Chiong, to Hong Kong to face 30 charges of theft and false accounting.

China denial

Peking (AFP) - The Chinese Justice Ministry denied a report in the official *China Youth* magazine that Mao Tse-tung's widow, Jiang Qing, had been let out of prison for cancer treatment.

Leader held

Panama City (AFP) - Police seized Senator Roberto Brenes, leader of the opposition Civic Crusade party, after clandestine radio broadcasts calling on the military to rebel.

Spies released

Seoul (Reuter) - South Korea released 281 political detainees, including convicted North Korean spies, in an amnesty for 2,015 prisoners.

Arafat condemns party accord

Mr Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, told a news conference in Belgrade yesterday that Israeli moves to set up a new coalition government of the Likud and Labour parties was "not for peace but for war".

He added: "The first point of this accord is to continue building settlements in the West Bank and Gaza."

"The second is no international peace conference on the Middle East. The third is 'no' to an independent Palestinian state. And the fourth is not to negotiate with the PLO. It

is clear that the Labour Party is retreating from all the promises made during the election campaign."

He said that the PLO would continue "to pursue peace". "This is a strategic policy, and not a tactic. We hope that in the future we will also have positive and constructive results. Our start was very positive."

"But we have to remember that the Israelis have given out instructions to destroy this dialogue, maybe through terrorist actions. And they are preparing for a big military action in south Lebanon," he said.

Holiday Bonus



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rougher in West End cordoned off in siege drama

Assets of seized by Opposition in Sri Lanka



Vanuatu's embattled Prime Minister orders arrest

President held on mutiny charge

From Christopher Morris Sydney

President George Sokomani of Vanuatu, who tried to install a rebel government in the troubled South Pacific nation, was last night locked in a police cell with common criminals after being arrested and charged with inciting mutiny.

Mr Sokomani, who has held office since the former New Hebrides gained independence from Britain and France eight years ago, is facing a possible life sentence. Vanuatu's elected Prime Minister, Father Walter Lini, personally gave the order yesterday for the President's arrest. He had been enraged by Mr Sokomani's bid to usurp power when the President dissolved Parliament last Friday and later swore in an interim government led by an arch-rival, Mr Barak Sope, who is also under arrest.

The swearing-in ceremony at the President's office on Sunday is the basis of the mutiny charge he faces.

President Sokomani has protested that he acted only in Vanuatu's interest because of the bitter power struggle between Father Lini and Mr Sope which has divided the republic most of this year.

When a heavily armed squad of 20 soldiers raided his home early yesterday morning to arrest him, a distressed President said: "I think what the Government is doing to me at the moment is beyond comprehension."

President Sokomani was taken to police headquarters in Port Vila, the capital, for questioning while the Public Prosecutor, Mr John Baxter-Wright, prepared the charge.

In court, the prosecutor conceded that the hearing was a strange one because the defendant was still head of state. But he declared that the



Arrests in Port Vila: Armed guards escorting Mr Barak Sope from the court yesterday after he was remanded in custody until next month, and, right, President Sokomani, Mr Sope's uncle, being driven away after appearing on a mutiny charge.

President was not above the law and that the charge of inciting mutiny was on a par with treason.

Father Lini's Government, however, has started moves to sack Mr Sokomani. Twenty of the 46 MPs loyal to the Prime Minister have signed a motion calling for a meeting of the Electoral College to have the President removed.

The MPs described the

President's attempt to dissolve Parliament as "an act amounting to gross misconduct", and cited the swearing-in of an interim government pending elections next February as "attempted treason".

It was alleged, too, that President Sokomani had incited mutiny by distributing a document to members of the police and security forces seeking support for the admin-

istration of Mr Sope. The President is Mr Sope's uncle. In an emotional speech to Parliament, Father Lini said it would be difficult to forget the events of 1988 in Vanuatu.

"I make this speech with a heavy heart," he said. "Now there is hatred in Vanuatu. It is big, it is deep."

Meanwhile, Mr Sope and four ministers in his short-lived Government were yesterday refused bail. They had earlier appeared in court on charges of sedition and had been remanded in custody until January 4.

Despite the arrests Vanuatu remains tense and under nightly curfew. A violent backlash by armed supporters of Mr Sope, who has close links with Libya where some of his men have had military training, is feared.

Big Apple aims to take bite out of its citizens

From Charles Bremner, New York

This may sound as likely to succeed as King Canute's project for tide control: New York City has set up a commission to stop citizens being rude.

Parisians, Muscovites and even Londoners might well dispute the title, but New Yorkers have long prided themselves on living in the most wise-cracking, toughest metropolis around. Of course, underneath the short temper and the gruffness of the big city, there was always supposed to lurk a warm heart.

No better embodiment could be found than Mayor Ed Koch, the "shoot-from-the-hip" chief executive whose daily tirades make Mrs Edwina Currie sound like a model of discretion. Mr Koch insists he means well and he does simplify things by insulting almost all groups equally.

But by common consent, things have been getting out of hand over the past couple of years. Bump into someone in a Manhattan street during this season of goodwill and you stand a good chance of being sworn at. Many shop assistants, taxi drivers and other "service personnel" grunt or ignore your presence.

Red lights have become advisory and those rare taxi drivers who speak English prefer to use it for insults. Comparing horror stories has become a cocktail pastime.

Americans from farther afield are also complaining about a similar breakdown, though New Yorkers still marvel at the gentility of other places, with the exception perhaps of Miami, where there are a lot of exiled New Yorkers.

Even in New York, foreigners can be disarmed by the still surviving social rituals. Dial one hotel, for example, and you will hear this typical answer: "Happy holidays.

How may I help you?"

In many restaurants, waiters like to tell you their first names and list their "personal favourite" on the menu. In New York, however, "have a nice day", a formula from the 1970s, now tends to mean "give me a tip, or else".

The city fathers decided to take action after surveys found that the most common complaint among the 18 million annual visitors was "a lack of courtesy, or a roughness", according to Mr Herb Rickman, the head of the commission. That adds up to lost business.

The panel of psychiatrists, anthropologists and advertising men have the job of finding

Have a nice day tends to mean give me a tip, or else

why the Big Apple has become so rude. That is the easy part. Then they must devise a campaign to stem the tide of incivility.

On the advice of Dr Kenneth Kelner, a psychiatrist, the campaign will seek to stir up a little healthy guilt. Mr Ron Burkhardt, the boss of the advertising firm on the commission, says that his team is devising commercials and posters in the vein of the British humorous variety.

He will not reveal details yet, but he says it aims at "core groups" such as shop assistants and bus and taxi drivers. "It's very warm, friendly, kind of like we're putting our arms around people and saying, 'Can't you act a little nicer?'"

The slogan will be something like "We're all in this together", he says, but the firm is still working on it.

Mr Burkhardt thinks that other cities might follow the campaign, due to be launched

next year, just as they imitated the highly successful "I love New York" drive, with the heart symbol for love.

That America is becoming a less varnished place has been a running theme in the news magazines and television commentaries for months. President-elect George Bush tapped the anxiety in his famous campaign phrase about seeking a "kinder, gentler nation". But he then rode to victory with a string of distinctly ungentle slogans such as "Read my lips" and "You're history", borrowed from the detective Dirty Harry.

There is good evidence of the decay of public discourse in the success of the new genre of "tabloid TV" or "shock video" shows that are made mainly in the New York area.

The most notorious host is Mr Morton Downey, who has earned fame and wealth this year with a talk show in which he subjects his guests to sneers and insults such as "stima" and "scumbag" in front of a jeering audience. A game has gone on sale to capitalize on the trend. Called Loudmouth, players score by insulting opponents and are penalized for being "too polite".

On Tuesday a Washington Post columnist proposed giving Vice-President-elect Dan Quayle the job of national civility czar. In this post he would fight the boorishness and loutishness that is pervading America. "Perhaps if Quayle takes up the cudgels for civility, his expression will replace the apology Bush never made for his excesses," Mary McGroarty wrote.

Last Sunday, The New York Times felt worried enough about the rudeness malady to run an analysis on its front page, saying: "This may well be remembered as a year when nastiness came into its own and became a commodity."

Assets of Zaire leader seized by Belgian court

From Michael Dynes, Brussels

The festering dispute between Belgium and Zaire is threatening to develop into a complete diplomatic rift, following a decision by a Belgian judge to issue a court order seizing all President Mobutu Sese Seko's Belgian assets.

The seizure order was issued late on Tuesday night to prevent President Mobutu from transferring any of his assets to Zaire, after the Belgian farming and livestock company, Cotoval, claimed that the Government in Kinshasa still owed it \$300,000 in compensation for assets nationalized by President Mobutu in 1973.

According to the Belgian daily newspaper La Libre Belgique, President Mobutu owns about £3 million worth of property in Belgium, including the "presidential palace" in Rhode-Saint-Genese, a wealthy Brussels suburb.

News of the seizure broke hours before Mr Léo Tindemans, the Foreign Minister, was due to arrive back in Belgium after three days of talks in Kinshasa with President Mobutu designed to help repair the damage caused to relations between Belgium and its former African colony after a bitter dispute over Belgium's

offer to reschedule part of Zaire's foreign debt.

Lawyers acting on behalf of President Mobutu yesterday registered an appeal with the Ministry of Justice calling for the seizure order to be revoked on the grounds that it was "insulting to a foreign head of state".

Earlier this month President Mobutu ordered Zaire's state-owned companies to sell their Belgian assets and relocate elsewhere in Europe.

He has also told the estimated 15,000 Zairean nationals living in Belgium to dispose of their assets and return home. So far only a handful have complied with



President Mobutu: Ordered Zaireans to return home.

the order. President Mobutu's action was prompted by the unexpected announcement last month by Mr Wilfried Martens, the Belgian Prime Minister, that his Government was preparing to unilaterally reschedule part of Zaire's debt burden.

The offer, which initially was warmly received by Zaire, provoked an outcry in the Belgian media, which demanded to know why Mr Martens had decided to give additional financial assistance to what it described as a "Marxist-type dictatorship".

The debt rescheduling plan involved reducing by 33 per cent the repayment on a \$108 million (£60 million) loan to Zaire and the suspension for 14 years of Zaire's \$467 million commercial debt guaranteed by Brussels.

The rescheduling proposal provoked outrage from the Socialist members of Mr Martens's seven-month-old coalition Government.

The Belgian offer was rejected by Mr Nguza Karl-I-Bond, Zaire's Foreign Minister, after Belgian reports alleged that corruption was endemic in Zaire and that most foreign aid went into the pockets of senior officials.

Opposition claims fraud in Sri Lanka election

From Vijitha Yapa, Colombo

Mrs Sirima Bandaranaike, who lost narrowly to Mr Ranasinghe Premadasa in Sri Lanka's presidential elections last Monday, claimed yesterday that the poll was neither fair nor clean and said that she could not accept the result.

At a crowded press conference in Colombo, Mrs Bandaranaike produced a book said to contain ballot papers. Seven such books, she said, had been found by one of her supporters at a police station where, she alleged, some ballot boxes had been taken instead of to a counting centre.

She refused to reveal the name of the police station, but said that her representative, who had followed the ballot boxes to the counting station, had been amazed when he found they were turning into a police station instead. He had not been allowed to enter and she said that he had later found the seven ballot books at the station.

She said that her lawyers had since advised her to file an election petition before the Supreme Court. Her party was considering its next step which, she said, could involve street protests, forbidden by the Government.

Moneragala, voters at 49 polling stations could not vote because there were no officials present.

Government sources said that the officials could not attend because of road blocks and shooting incidents in which one election official was killed.

Mrs Bandaranaike said she had written to the election commissioner about this and had complained about other acts of intimidation and violence, which included the killing of four of her party organizers, "by the UNP (the ruling party)".

She claimed also that polling cards had not been distributed in many parts of the island and that some polling booths had opened late.

Mrs Bandaranaike said she had asked the commissioner not to declare the results of the election until the people who were deprived of the chance to vote in a number of areas were allowed to do so. The commissioner, however, had not replied to her letter. She alleged that the result in one district, Seruwila, had not yet been revealed.

Most political observers believe the absence of post-election violence was due to a decision by the new President-elect not to be installed in office until January 2, 1989.

They maintain that had the extremist Sinhala group, the JVP (People's Liberation Front) not threatened to kill voters, the voting figures would have been much higher and that Mrs Bandaranaike would have won.

Polling was very low in the south, where in some electorates the turnout was less than 10 per cent.

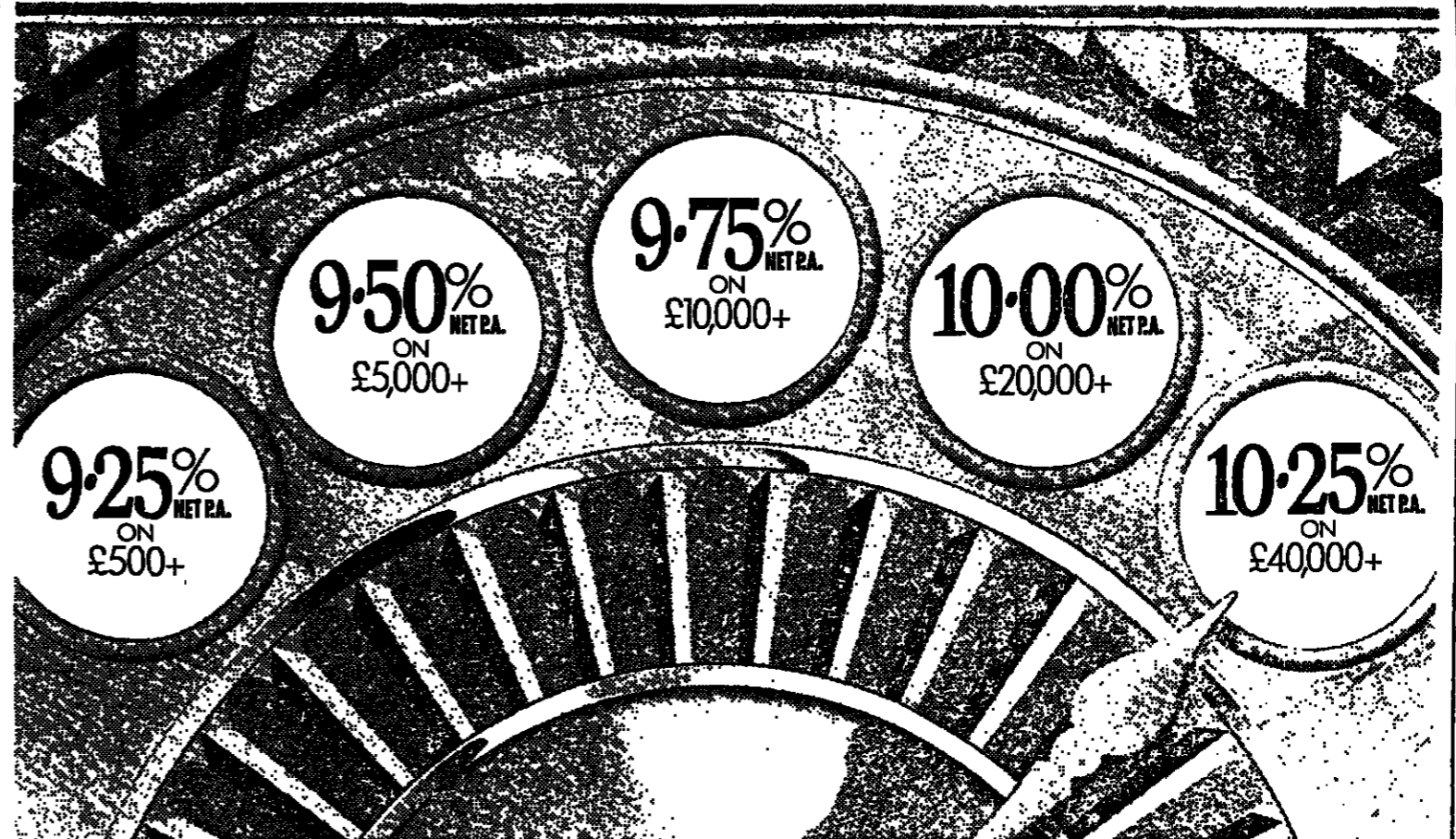
Another reason for Mrs Bandaranaike's defeat may have been the secret talks held by her son with Tamil guerrillas a fortnight before the election and which were revealed in Parliament by the Government three days later.

A further cause may have been the food queues caused by the JVP's disruption of food supplies.

This reminded many of the austerity when Mrs Bandaranaike was in power from 1970 to 1977, and people had to queue for hours to get even a loaf of bread.

Members of the South Asian Election Monitoring team, who observed the election first hand, said in an interim report published yesterday that they were impressed "by the determination of election officials to conduct an election in a fair and efficient manner under difficult conditions. The problems of general intimidation in the election campaign were unprecedented".

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ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE WITH THE WOOLWICH

December 21 1988

PARLIAMENT

Public interest defence rejected

After 16 years of dispute, the time had come to settle on a successor to Section 2 of the Official Secrets Act, 1911, Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, said in the Commons.

Moving the second reading of the Official Secrets Bill, he said that the present law was too wide and too weak. The Government's proposed reform was a coherent and ambitious re-formation, bolder and more open than anything attempted by any government in this area since the war.

But he did not believe that a general public interest "get out" had any place in the operation of this particular law.

"I do not think that the House should banish the criminal law from these matters."

Replying, Mr Roy Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs, said that the Bill was not intended to promote the free flow of information but to provide a new method by which it was reduced and obstructed.

Mr Hurd said that the House was being asked to agree in principle that the criminal law should be prised away from the great bulk of official information. The Government wanted to protect unauthorized disclosure in six limited areas, and MPs would be asked to agree on the scope and definition of these areas.

Within the protected areas there were some tests of harm which the prosecution would have to prove. "We mean that the criminal law should protect effectively information whose disclosure is likely to cause serious harm to the public interest and no other."

Changes had been made since the White Paper on the matter. The Bill had introduced a harm test for disclosure of information received in confidence from a foreign government or international organization.

The change, however, had not escaped the objection which some critics had tried to shroud the Bill in. The Bill made clear that the prosecution might argue that the fact that a confidence has been broken might jeop-



Mr Roy Hattersley (left) and Mr Douglas Hurd, who clashed in the House of Commons on the Official Secrets Bill

ardize the country's interests abroad.

But that was no obligation on the jury to accept that argument and it did not allow the harm test to be by-passed. There would be no absolute offence. There would be a harm test, and that would relate to Britain's national interests abroad.

The Government had also examined a related point, the harm test as it would govern the whole foreign affairs field. "We thought that there was a way of reflecting the proper concerns of the criminal law without undermining the effective conduct of our foreign policy."

So, the Government had not introduced the reference in the White Paper to disclosure which "might prejudice dealings with another government or international organization".

The Government had narrowed considerably the crime category. In the White Paper the Government had discussed penalizing disclosure of information likely to be useful in the commission of an offence.

It had been suggested by the Guild of British Newspaper Editors, for example, that the words were too vague and too wide.

It had never been the Government's intention to cover all sorts of information of a general kind which might conceivably be useful in committing an offence but where the chain of circumstances was too long and uncertain to justify involving the criminal law. So a narrower definition had been provided for that sort of disclosure.

As a result of these changes the Bill was tighter in wording,

narrower in scope, and more specific in meaning.

It would not mean, for example, that it would be an offence for a newspaper to publish a person's complaint that his telephone was tapped.

Mr Roy Hattersley, Opposition spokesman on home affairs, intervened to say that it surely would be an offence if the complainant had been told their telephone was being tapped by a Crown servant.

Mr Hurd said yes, that would be an offence. But if a person believed that something was amiss there was no reason why he should not go to the newspaper and no reason why the newspaper should not publish it.

The Bill would remove the protection of the criminal law from a great bulk of sensitive and important information,

including policy documents, Cabinet discussions on education, health, social security, the economy, and Budget preparations. None of that would have the protection of the criminal law.

The Government had considered the implications of the *Spycatcher* case and the present state of the law. "We have no plans to introduce legislation to amend the civil law of confidence."

However, now that the criminal law was being withdrawn from the great mass of information, the Civil Service code did need to take account of that in its disciplinary arrangements.

It was not safe to remove the protection of the criminal law completely from official information. The law had to be effective. A

defence of prior publication had been suggested. That would mean that anyone who could say his disclosure had been published before at any time or form anywhere in the world, could not commit an offence. "That is a blanket immunity I do not think the House should accept."

Prior publication could be relevant. For the first time under the Bill, a jury would have to consider whether the journalist who published information did in fact cause specific harm. The prosecution would have to prove harm beyond reasonable doubt.

In many cases that would fail, if the defence was able to argue, because of prior publication, that further disclosure could do no further harm.

However a front-page "splash" in a daily newspaper based on an item previously carried in a technical journal in another country might well cause serious further harm.

He could not find a judgement suggesting that the so-called public interest defence in the present law. "We do not think that a blanket defence of public interest should have a place in the proposals before us."

The Bill did not allow someone to say: "Yes, I know my disclosure caused harm, but I divulged a different public interest which in my view justified an otherwise criminal act."

That was the heart of the argument. If people thought that such arguments should be allowed, that the courts should be allowed to balance some concept of competing interests, that it was all right for lives to be lost so long as one public servant's perspective of maladministration should be aired in the press, they were close to saying that these matters could not be regulated in the criminal law.

A responsible person should not argue that, although he knew that a disclosure would prejudice the capabilities of the armed services, it was justified on other grounds—for example, because he believed that it was in the public interest that the misconduct of a minister should be exposed or that the Government's defence policy should be reversed.

Peer calls for treasures to be listed

Britain's treasures should be listed in the same way as historic houses, Lord Blake (C), chairman of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts, suggested in the Lords.

During a debate on the problems of preserving historic buildings and treasures, he said there was a case for reintroducing an indefinite ban on the export of certain national collections.

He said that by and large the Government had worked well until the recent astronomical rise in prices in the art world. But he could see no objection to the introduction of charges to view collections where they were cost-effective.

He was sceptical about whether the sale of the Mappa Mundi by the dean and chapter of Hereford Cathedral was the easiest way to raise money to repair the fabric of the cathedral.

No other cathedral had made or even contemplated a similar move. Lincoln and Salisbury, for example, were not proposing to sell their copies of the Magna Carta, nor Winchester its famous bible.

"I am afraid that the dean and chapter (of Hereford) are taking what I can only describe as a lazy way out."

It was not too late for them to consider the merits of a private sale to a British collector. There was a case for listing certain very special objects in the same way as listing historic houses.

Such a move might have

HOUSE OF LORDS

avoided the lamentable disposal of the Spencer collection in the Ryman library and the George Brown collection in Newcastle.

The new owners of Hovingham Hall, Suffolk, did not make the slightest effort in keeping it up.

Lord Wyatt of Weeford (Ind) said that Lord Blake was being unfair to the new owners who had spent a lot of money on the hall.

Lord Blake said it did not look like it, but if the present state was only temporary he was only too pleased.

Mr Nicholas Ridley (Secretary of State for Environment) was anxious that some of the historic houses were sold. He hoped it would not just be a matter of getting the highest price.

To sell some of the acquisitions to preserve the rest was not the best way of preserving national treasures.

Lord Jenkin of Hillhead, leader of the Democrat peers, said that the history of Hovingham Hall had been one of almost unmitigated disaster over the past 15 years.

He did not believe that the major problem of the contents of historic houses could be contained, let alone solved, by Mr Ridley's chosen solution of the *ancien regime* selling as quickly as they could to the *nouveau riche*.

Ministers' pay rise

Salary increases for ministers of £1,559 a year were among a package of increases approved in the Commons after a debate late on Tuesday.

Mr John Wakeham, Leader of the House, recommending acceptance of the increase, said that the total annual addition to the wages bill of £81,000 was modest and the increase could not be regarded as excessive.

He said that from January 1, 1989, average salaries would be increased by 4 per cent in the Commons, with ministers and paid office holders receiving £332 on their official salary together with a £1,237 increase on their reduced parliamentary salary.

Government and Opposition whips would receive a further £200.

Ministry in touch with Irish officials

Control arrangements for unfit meat 'shown to be working'

Britain's arrangements for ensuring that no unfit meat got into the human food chain had been shown to work well in the case of contaminated meat found in a Cornish meat processor, Mr John MacGregor, Minister of Agriculture and Food, said in the Commons.

Mr John Home Robertson, an Opposition spokesman on agriculture, said that there should be immediate action to make local, national and international systems of food inspection work.

The events of the past two weeks had demonstrated a failure to maintain proper standards. They should be grateful to local councils for doing their work. He wished he could say the same for the minister.

Mr MacGregor said that the evidence was that not only local

authorities, but the department, were working properly.

Mr Matthew Taylor (Truro, Devon), whose constituency contains the Mid Cornwall Meat Packers where the contaminated meat was found, opened the exchanges when he asked whether the minister had taken any steps to ensure that meat entering the UK from the Republic of Ireland was fit for human consumption.

Mr MacGregor said that there were arrangements for the port health authorities to carry out checks on meat imported in the UK from the Republic of Ireland.

Environmental health officers from Carrick District Council had over a period been monitoring regularly meat coming into Mid Cornwall Meat Packers and

on a number of occasions meat had been surrendered.

Last week, the company refused to surrender part of a consignment which environmental health officers considered unfit. It was taken before a magistrate who condemned it. The Government had asked the republic to investigate urgently.

Mr Taylor asked if he was convinced that standards in Ireland were equivalent to those here. Could he explain how consignments of this sort could have entered the country in this way?

Could he give any indication of the extent to which such consignments had been entering? "What reassurance can he give consumers in this country that the meat that they get on

their plate is clean, pure and wholesome, unlike that which has been imported into my own constituency?"

Could he also explain why, on BBC radio, *The World as One*, the Irish agriculture minister had said that he had not been contacted by Mr MacGregor's ministry and was not conducting an investigation.

Mr MacGregor replied that his officials had been in touch with the company and they would hope later today to talk to the minister himself.

Under the EEC rules, all meat imported from other EEC states had to be accompanied by health certificates.

This incident demonstrated that effective action by Carrick District Council had ensured that no unfit meat was entering

the human food chain. In fact, several consignments coming to this company had been surrendered.

The checks, which were extremely important, were, first, environmental health officers in the district council monitoring the meat regularly; second, checks by the officers in manufacturing plant to which the meat had gone; third, checks by the companies themselves which were anxious that their products were safe.

Environmental health officers at the council had alerted, through electronic mail, officers in all other parts of the country.

The Government had checked with the Environmental Health Officers' Association and he was assured that there was no particular concern as a

result of the information provided.

"In other words, this is a particular problem which the environmental health officers in Carrick had been picking up." The system had worked well on this occasion.

Mr Robert Hicks (South East Cornwall, C) asked for confirmation that there was no evidence that the meat in question had entered the human food chain.

Mr MacGregor: The most important point is that the system has worked. The meat has been found and taken out of the system and all the checks have worked. I repeat, and I can give this assurance, that there is no evidence that any such meat has entered the food chain.

Mr James Molyneux, Lead-

er of the OUP, said that food standards in other EEC countries were not up to British standards. Was it not true that spot checks were as low as 5 per cent at some entry ports and that this needed to be increased?

Mr MacGregor said that it was not possible to check every single consignment carefully. There were two checks at the port and then by environmental health officers who were responsible for the food plants in their district.

Mr Thomas Cox (Totting, Lab) asked what laws were being applied, those of the EEC or those of the United Kingdom? If it was our own laws, people would have total confidence, but if it was laws imposed by the Community then the Government should make its voice

heard in demanding that safeguards be stringently imposed irrespective of where meat came into this country.

Mr MacGregor said that our own safeguards were stringently imposed.

Miss Marjorie Mawlam (Redcar, C) would like to know if he has not yet talked to the Irish agriculture minister? In view of the difficulties of communication we have had over the (Father Patrick) Ryan case and Mr MacGregor's incompetence over the egg fiasco, it would have been common decency, let alone common sense, to talk to the Irish minister first.

Mr MacGregor: That is a pointless question because my ministry has been in touch with them and I shall be in touch later this afternoon.

Electricity export to be made easier

The capacity of the interconnector which enables electricity generated in Scotland to be exported to England may be increased.

Mr Ian Lang, Minister of State, Scottish Office, said during question time that the level of electricity exports from Scotland after privatization would be a matter for the limited negotiation between the companies.

"Consideration is being given to upgrading the capacity of the interconnector so that opportunities for trading can be maximized to the limits justified commercially and economically."

Mr David Harris (St Ives, C) said that the Electricity Bill and proposals to upgrade the interconnector offered exciting prospects for the generating industry in Scotland and it

SCOTLAND

would be a refreshing change if the ragbag of opposition was to think positively rather than negatively on the matter.

Mr Gavin Strang (Edinburgh East, Lab) asked whether the Government would invest in the interconnector or stand idly by and allow the South of Scotland Electricity Board to write off thousands of pounds worth of investment and thousands of jobs in the deep-mine industry.

Mr Lang said that the decision on upgrading the interconnector was for the electricity companies, but there had been agreement in principle to increase its capacity to 1,600 megawatts. The cost was for negotiation.

Scottish questions Rifkind refuses invitation

There were noisy exchanges during Scottish questions when Mr Malcolm Rifkind, the Secretary of State, made clear he had no intention of taking part in a proposed seminar on devolution for Scotland.

He maintained that the outcome of the debate had already been decided by its organizers, the Campaign for a Scottish Assembly.

"Since it is not intended as a genuine debate on the merits and demerits of the constitutional changes which they have in mind, I consider that it would not be appropriate for the Government to be represented."

Mr Jim Sillars (Glasgow, Govan, SNP) said that it was wrong to say that the outcome of the meeting was predetermined. It would be open to every point of view. Why was the Government afraid of giving Scottish people an opportunity to debate their views?

SCOTLAND

Mr Donald Dewar, chief Opposition spokesman on Scotland, said that Mr Rifkind's response demonstrated arrogant assumptions about the motives of those involved in the constitutional convention. Was it not the duty of responsible politicians in Scotland to discuss the possibilities and argue their corner?

Mr Rifkind was trapped by the policies of his party, but when was he going to break out and recognize the strong wish of Scots to have a say over their own affairs within the framework of the United Kingdom? His objection to devolution seemed to be based on a belief that most people in Scotland did not want it.

Mr Rifkind, in a reference to the walkout by Opposition Scottish MPs during the previous evening's debate, said that it was the duty of members to take part in debates and not to allow the "Duke of York to lead them out and then back in again". Mr Dewar should think carefully about associating himself with a group which stated that the United Kingdom claim to rights was a glaring anomaly. He could understand why some members of the House should support it, but Mr Dewar was playing with fire if he associated himself with that kind of thing.

Dewar leads a protest walkout by Scottish members

Part of the following report of a Commons debate on the failure to establish a Select Committee on Scottish Affairs appeared in later editions yesterday.

Opposition MPs from Scotland walked out of the Commons near the end of a debate in which they had sharply criticized the Government over its failure to come forward with proposals to establish a Commons Select Committee on Scottish Affairs.

The MPs left the chamber rather than listen to the wind-up speech by a Government minister after three hours of debate.

They accepted an invitation by Mr Donald Dewar, chief Opposition spokesman on Scotland, not to sit and listen to a "litany of excuses" as to why the committee had not been set up.

Mr Dewar said that Conservative members would not serve on the committee and that the Government would have to find a generally acceptable basis on which to complete nominations to the committee.

It was a sad history that showed up all that was wrong with the present Government and the way it used the parliamentary process.

Mr Ian Lang, Minister of State, Scottish Office, addressing the depleted Opposition benches, said that they were witnessing another own goal.

The select committee could have been set up. The opposition parties had been more reasonable in the earlier stages of the negotiations.

The Government would have welcomed the select committee as one more form of scrutiny. "We have a good story to tell in Scotland."

Mr John Wakeham, Leader of the House, had moved a motion earlier recognizing the inability of the Committee of Selection to nominate MPs to serve on the Scottish committee.

He said that Government and Opposition had been unable to find a generally acceptable basis on which to complete nominations to the committee.

Mr Frank Dobson, Opposition spokesman on House of Commons affairs, said that the Scottish people had reduced the number of Conservative MPs in

Scotland to 10 out of 72. One answer was to set up a committee that reflected the outcome of the general election. But that, they understood, had been rejected by the Prime Minister.

"They twist any arm, press any gag, in order to get some of their policies through but they will not twist an arm in order to set up the Scottish affairs select committee."

Such a committee would be highly inconvenient to the Government, an inconvenience that they did not want.

If the Government got away with swallowing up one inconvenient select committee, it would soon get a taste for them. This was a naked use of power for short-term political advantage.

Mr William Walker (North Tayside, C) said that he had challenged more in this Parliament, not merely on the committee, than in all the years he had sat on it. Committee reports were not listened to by ministers.

SCOTLAND

The time was long overdue to discuss the way the unitary parliamentary system was run because if not, there was a danger that for short-term opportunism, the system would be at grave risk.

Sir Hector Munn (Dumfries, C) said that it had been the attitude of the Opposition from bench and their refusal to allow an English Conservative on to the committee that had brought this about.

Mrs Ray Michie, Democrat spokesman on Scotland, said that the death knell was sounding for the committee and the Government would see to it by treading in its voting machine at the end of the debate.

The Government was closing its eyes and ears to the fact that it did not have majority support in either Scotland or the United Kingdom.

Mr Harry Ewing (Falkirk East, Lab) said that five Conser-

vative backbenchers could stop 62 MPs from the opposition parties carrying out the task for which they were elected.

"We are all being ignored and that is putting tension on the situation in Scotland. That is why I say that the fragile nature of democracy could easily snap."

Mrs Margaret Ewing (Moray, SNP) said that Scots were deeply concerned at the offence that had been done to the democratic process in Scotland where there was now essentially a governor general served by a few hunkies.

They were not prepared to see the democratic and political aspirations of the people of Scotland pushed around any longer. The Government was making a serious misjudgement and it would not be allowed to get away with it.

Inward investment reaches £306m

The estimated value of planned inward investment to Scotland from April this year was £306.6 million, with the prospect of creating or safeguarding of 4,451 jobs, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, said during questions.

He told MPs, however, that he had no plans to meet the Ambassador of the United States to discuss inward investment.

He said that this investment was a tribute to "Locate in Scotland", created by the Government, and also to the skill and talents of Scottish workers. It justified the Government's policies.

Mr Allan Stewart (Eastwood, C) asked if, at a time of rising protectionism in the United States, it was Government policy to encourage inward investment.

Mr Rifkind said it was right to pay tribute to these towns in attracting inward investment. He agreed that, in considering their future, and the possible winding up of individual new towns, ways must be explored to ensure that they could be attractive locations for inward investment.

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The rate-support grant was carried by 237 votes to 212—Government majority, 25.

Rates 'can be held down'

The Welsh rate-support grant for 1989-90 would make it possible for local government in the principality to meet its obligations and provide efficient services, Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Wales, told the Commons when he successfully proposed approval of the grant.

The amounts involved were so huge as to be beyond the comprehension of ordinary people, he said, but the settlement represented £37 a week for every household in the principality. Of that, £25 came from government grants, £7 from business and £5 from domestic ratepayers.

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Royal Assent

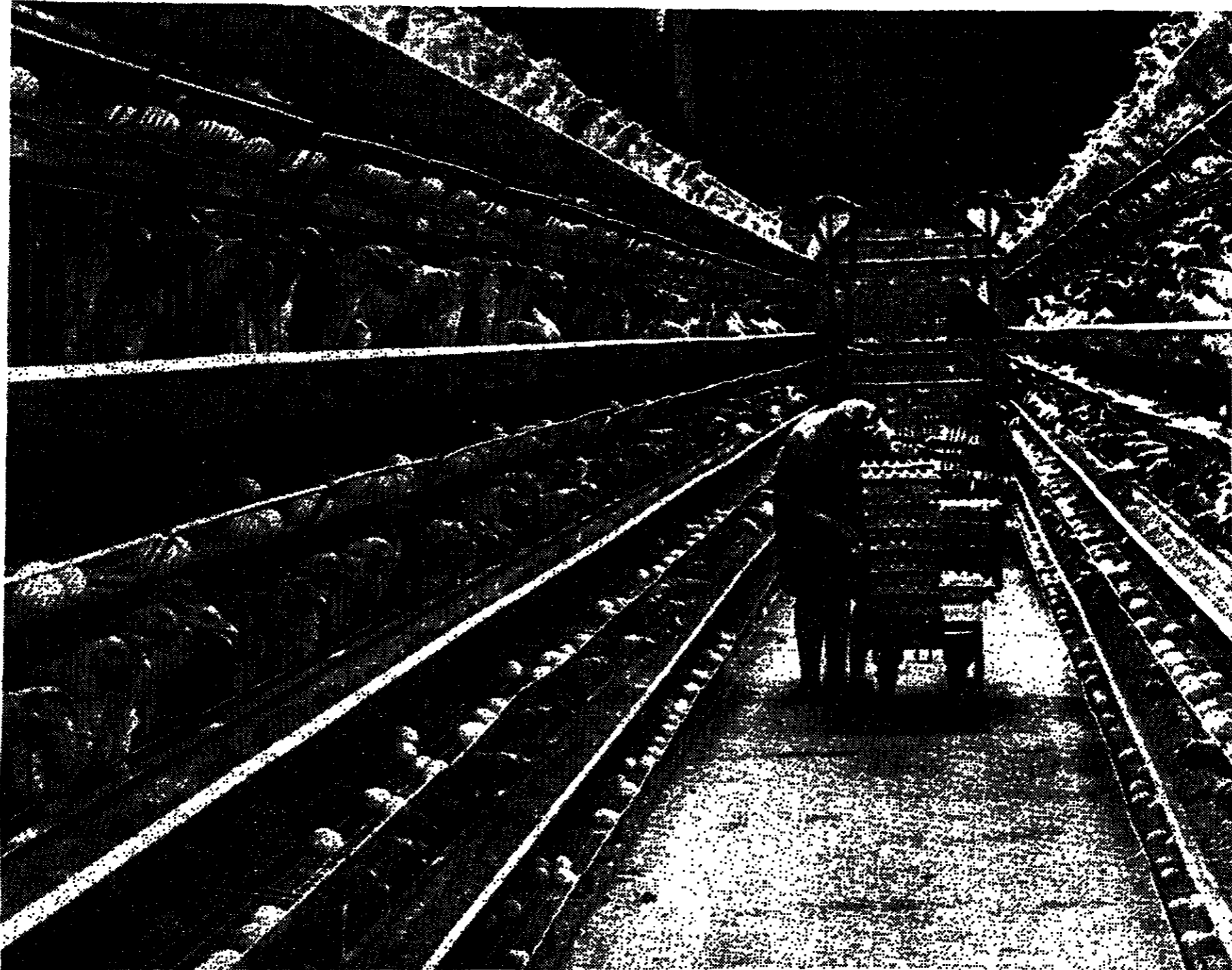
Royal Assent has been signified to the following Acts: Consolidated Fund (No 2); Newcastle upon Tyne Moor; Brumingham City Council; Southern Water Authority; Harwich Harbour.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Christmas adjournment debates on various topics. Lords (11): Social security updating and re-rating orders.

Advertisement for RSPCA featuring a salmon and text: "This is what... of Britain's... You live and... There is no... (Instincts... chickens as run... You rarely... your diet often... ground-up... chickens... Your life is... Sometimes six... When you... top living... You are just... Nothing more... Sadly, there... some of those eggs... Salmonella... battery farming... Millions of ch... to be slaughtered... The RSPCA... about this but ACC... eliminate salmonell...

# Their lives will turn your stomach even if their eggs don't.



This is what it feels like to be one of Britain's 37 million battery hens.

You live and die in a space not much bigger than a shoe box.

There is no room to spread your wings, perch or scratch.

(Instincts as natural to chickens as running and walking are to humans.)

You rarely see daylight and your diet often contains the ground-up remains of other chickens.

Your life is unnaturally short. Sometimes six months, sometimes a year. When you stop laying you stop living.

You are just an egg machine, nothing more.

Sadly, there is now a risk that some of those eggs will be infected.

Salmonella is not confined to battery farming but it certainly intensifies the problem.

Millions of chickens are about to be slaughtered because of the drop in egg sales.

The RSPCA are concerned about this but accept the need to eliminate salmonella from the food cycle.

It is a bad business, but we hope that some good will come from this disaster and we need your help to make it happen.

There are alternative forms of egg production that are less cruel than battery farming.

EEC marketing regulations define egg production systems as "Free Range", "Deep Litter", "Semi-Intensive" or "Perchery".

When you see eggs packaged under those headings you can be sure they're not from a battery cage.

However, beware of labels like "Farm Fresh" and "Country Fresh" — they are simply slogans that can mask an egg's origins.

Unfortunately, alternatives to battery eggs are still rare.

We need your help in the stores and supermarkets. Ask for non-battery eggs; let the store know you care.

You'll be surprised at the power of the purse.

Of course, you'll be told that such eggs will cost more and it's true, but we suspect many housewives would be willing to pay more for non-battery eggs.

(Indeed, they already do.)

Secondly, use your voice politically. Write to your MP and make your views known. Sweden and Switzerland have already passed legislation to phase out battery egg farming.

Last but not least, support the RSPCA with a donation. We have been fighting battery farming for years and we need your help to go on with our campaign.

In time, the egg industry will recover from salmonella.

It is vital that it rebuilds on more humane lines — that it does not return to the cruelty of battery cages.

The time has come to put the chicken before the egg.

To the RSPCA, Causeway, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 1HG.

I enclose a cheque/PO to help in your fight against battery farming for:

£50  £25  £15  £10  Other

Please send me literature on battery farming.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_



SPECTRUM

The past and present man

He must be the best-known personality in the world. In an age morbidly obsessed with celebrity, he has more charisma than the Pope, is more widely recognized than the Queen, attracts more vulgar attention than Mrs Thatcher, and is more loved even than Mickey Mouse.

He is impersonated in high streets and department stores around the world by elderly gents whose breath smells understandably fruity after lunch. Christmas comes, but once a year is enough. And yet, for somebody so famous, we know surprisingly little about the real man behind the image. But we can say with confidence that the popular image is a travesty. He is universally recognized as a jolly old man with a red nose, white beard and whiskers, and red romper suit and dressing gown. In fact, he was certainly swarthy, if not dusky, he was probably lean and hungry and angry, and died young; he was political and militant; and, living in a sweaty climate, he did not wear a lot, certainly not a voluminous scarlet track suit. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, alias Santa Claus, alias Father Christmas, this is your life.

He was born in the late 3rd century in south-western Turkey. His parents are said to have been rich. He became bishop of Myra, a run-down diocese in a run-down corner of the Empire, the modern Mugla, looking out to Rhodes. According to tradition, he was imprisoned when Diocletian was persecuting the Christians, the contemporary Bolsheviks, and later released to attend the Council of Nicea in 325. Do not believe it. His name is not included in any of the early lists of bishops attending the council, when names of those attending were noticed as much as names attending memorial services listed on the Court Page. And that meticulous, fanatical nutter Athanasius does not once refer to him in his writings.

He first comes definitely into the credible record with the

THE TIMES PROFILE

NICHOLAS OF MYRA

Church of St Priscus and St Nicholas, built by the Emperor Justinian (died 565) at Constantinople. His cult was firmly established in the East from the 6th century, encouraged by a hyped and fictitious biography by Methodius, who died in 847. When Myra was taken by the Moslems, the bits and pieces of St Nicholas were evacuated to Bari, where there were many Greek immigrants and refugees, in 1087. For such an obscure ecclesiastic, he showed the talent of Edwin Currie for attracting sensational headlines in the sewer press. In the long run two concerning children were momentous. One runs that three girls were about to be sold into prostitution because their father could not afford dowries. Rich Nicholas anonymously tossed three bags of gold for dowries in the window of their house, saving them from a fate worse than death. This is considered by some to be the origin of putting sweets and other small presents in the stockings of children on the eve of St Nicholas's Day, December 6. The custom was transferred to Christmas Eve in Britain in a spirit of

thrif, to avoid having to give two lots of presents in a fortnight. Those three bags of gold were adopted into the coat of arms of the Medici family. Hence they were introduced into London by Lombard bankers, and became the familiar pawbroker's sign.

The other seminal legend connecting Nicholas with children concerns a wealthy Asian of the 4th century who sent his three sons to Athens to be educated. He told them to call on Bishop Nicholas en route. The boys arrived in Myra, and put up in the inn. The anthropophagous landlord murdered them to steal their luggage. He cut up the bodies, and put them in his pickling barrel, intending to serve a special plat du jour. Warned of this horrid transaction by a vision, Nicholas hurried to the inn, made a sign of the cross over the pork barrel, and prayed. The bits of the boys were miraculously reunited, and they jumped out as good as new. This is why in medieval iconography St Nicholas is represented as standing in full episcopal costume by a bath full of naked children.

BIOGRAPHY

- 280: Born of wealthy parents at Patara in Lycia (south-west Turkey)
302: Imprisoned during the Great Persecution of Diocletian
325: Said to have attended the First Council of Nicea
527-565: First church dedicated to St Nicholas at Constantinople
1087: Inhabitants of Bari, Italy, said to have rescued the relics of St Nicholas from invaders
1087: Cult of St Nicholas spreads over Europe
1625: Settlers introduce Santa Claus to the New World
1950: Heavy commercialization and vulgarization of Father Christmas in both the United States and Western Europe. Patron saint of the high street and department stores
1980: Raymond Briggs ultimately domesticates Father Christmas by depicting him sitting on the loo. Babar has already met him

Other pious flapdoodle of Nicholas as thaumaturge accreted like barnacles.

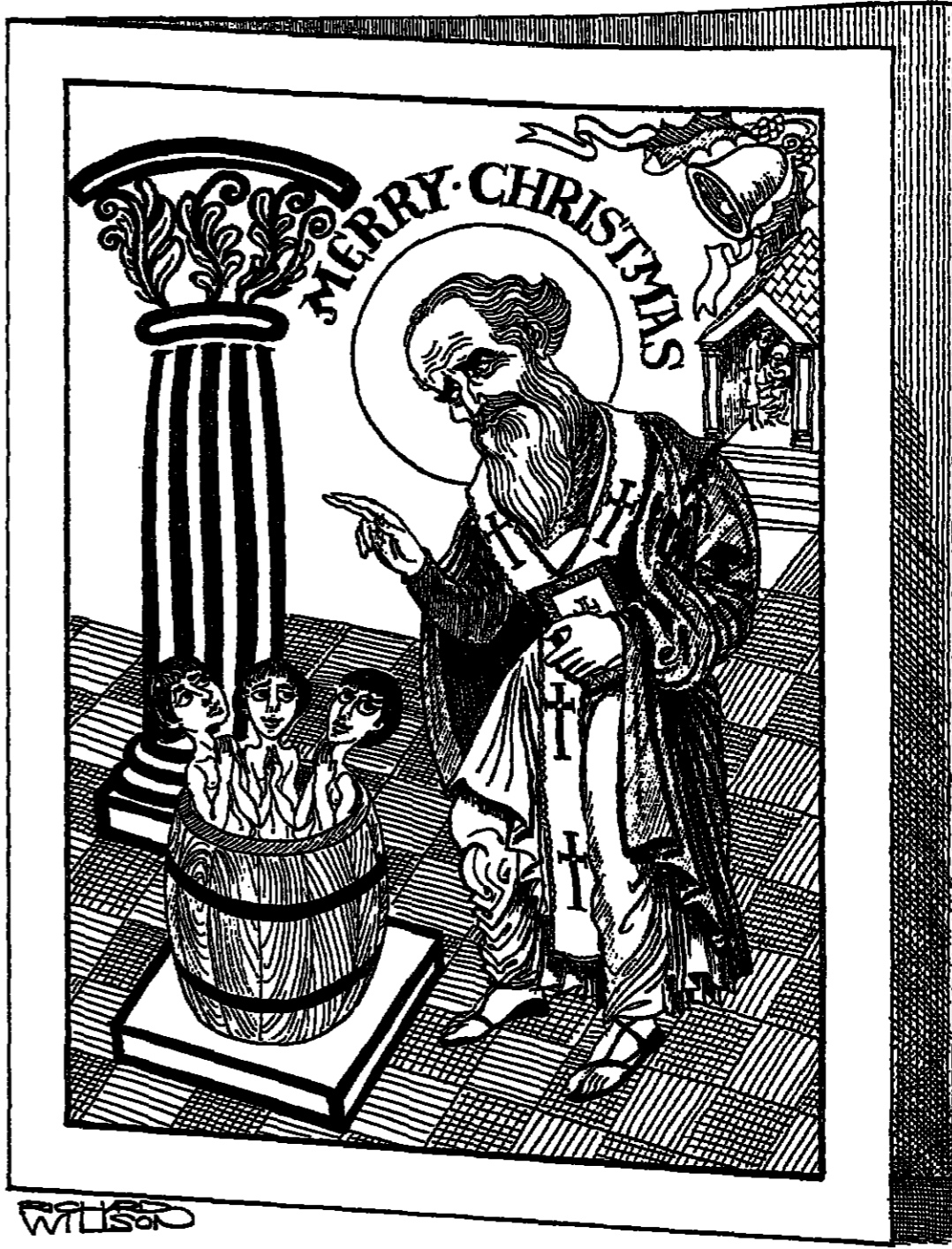
At the Reformation this legendary saint met an even more shadowy figure from the pagan world; and the two grew together into Father Christmas. That is where the old fool got his red nose, white whiskers, red pyjamas, and reputation for feasting.

His cult flourished particularly in Germany and other countries where the Reformed Churches were in the majority. The charitable Turkish bishop had met something older and more sinister. Father Christmas's beard has a Druidical cut from the days when the victims at the celebrations of the winter solstice were killed not in play, but for real.

The custom of putting presents into the children's stockings while they are sleeping on Christmas Eve, imitating Bishop Nicholas and his golden dowries, was imported to Britain with the Christmas tree around 1840. He was taken to the New World by Dutch Protestant settlers in New Amsterdam, where he was conflated with the Nordic god Thor. Hence came in reindeers, jinglebells, and the strident commercialism of modern Santa Claus.

Behind the jolly old fellow lurks this oddly descended creature, half bishop, half pagan witch-doctor, so familiar as to be virtually unknown. In 1969 the Vatican recognized how far St Nicholas had travelled from his innocent origins in Myra, and dropped his feast day from the calendar. People customarily say that Christmas is "for the kids". Considering how ghastly Christmas is, and how much our society hates children, this must be true. But they will be brave parents who assume that history will excuse them from creeping round the house with stockings on Saturday night, or their bright-eyed children, manufacturing spurious scores, from pretending to be taken in.

Philip Howard



How to make the heart beat again

If there were obvious solutions to the problems of the inner city, they would have been discovered years ago. I suspect that for many the phrase is simply a euphemism for other issues: those of racial prejudice, crime or drugs.

The more we amalgamate different social issues under the general label inner city, the less likely we are to be able to cope with any of them separately. I deplore the fact that current policies ignore the smouldering resentment building up in the cities, and I simply want to recommend a handful of ideas expressed in terms that will win the widest possible assent.

The first is that the property boom and property speculation destroys any opportunity for poor city dwellers to do anything for themselves. This is an old issue in British politics and the fact that it has slipped off the political agenda does not reduce its importance.

The public purse must bear the cost of artificially depressing site values for specific purposes. It is hypocrisy to remove people's opportunity to improve their situation, and then to stigmatize them as a self-perpetuating urban underclass.

The second point is closely related. The shining lights of urban regeneration are the tiny initiatives for dweller-controlled rehousing, whether co-ops or self-build associations, whose financial viability depends on access to land and whose organizational viability depends on a network of local advisory resources. This applies not only to the cities. Mechanisms have to be devised to enable poorer people to join everyone else in the general dispersal of settlement patterns.

The third point is similarly linked with site values and consequently with rental values. Our belated rediscovery of small business should persuade us to learn from the Italian example and to realize that its success depends on two things: access to credit and low overheads. Yet site valuation is still eliminating small business both inside and outside the area of the London Docklands Development Corporation. Britain has 2.5 million self-employed people. Italy, with a similar population, has 7.5 million as a result - among other things - of a policy of positive support, cheap credit, advice and market intelligence, and pooled accountancy and financial services, as well as the availability of sites and premises. The social benefits are enormous. The political debate on

Colin Ward concludes his look at our urban crisis on a note of hope



PART 4

public services has never quite reached the point when we decide that there should be an admission charge to public parks. But the "greening" of the city is an issue that is moving steadily forward in the urban agenda.

At last, population movements have enabled us to make within cities the kind of environment that was normal before the industrial revolution. A groundswell of opinion demands not just back gardens, but playing fields, city farms, allotments, city nature reserves and urban wildlife sites.

We can seize the opportunities, or we can ignore this demand as sentimental or irrelevant, claiming once again that urban land is much too precious to be devoted to the needs of the citizens. Contemporary youth culture is hostile to and suspicious of the education system. In those parts of the country where there is a reasonable hope of work or of further education leading to jobs, other influences are at work on the young. In the local culture of the inner city these other influences are

Colin Ward is the winner of the first Charles Douglas-Home Memorial Trust Award, instituted to commemorate the Editor of The Times from 1982 to 1985. Ward received the award for research into the revival of Britain's inner cities and he travelled to the United States, Europe and Britain. His book, Welcome, Thinner City, from which this series is adapted, will be published by Bedford Square Press in September 1989.

weakened or absent, and young people from ethnic minorities have the justified conviction that they are victimized by discrimination.

Publicly-funded projects, from the Education Priority Areas of the 1960s to the current promotion of "compact" between schools and employers, have sought to enhance the perceived value of schooling for children in "deprived" places. These efforts are always justified, although their results are seldom measured because of the time-lag before we can assess whether they have produced successful citizens. They are also the first items to be cut when educational spending is reduced.

The most likely successes are ventures outside the school system to change young people's lives by introducing new skills: all those attempts at providing them with computer skills, or at turning those convicted of taking-and-driving-away into stock-car racers.

Linked in several ways to all these points is the Community Workshop, a place where people have access to machinery, workspace and advice. The idea has had new impetus because of mass unemployment.

The MSC Community Programme funded several workshops but, of course, the money was cut off with the demise of the programme in September. The community workshop is an idea that should be expanded and enlarged into a base for enterprise. It should be a sheltered workshop for the infirm as well as a starting place for those who want to be independent but do not know how.

Finally, I find it appalling that our prescriptions for the future of the cities are framed in a sterile debate on the virtues of public or private enterprise and a sanctimonious advocacy of partnership between the two. The ordinary daily interests of poor city dwellers are ignored in this equation, whether they are for locally accessible work, decent housing, cheap public transport or schooling that really engages their children.

This has nothing to do with the physical constraints of the city: the Civic Trust survey Urban Wasteland calculates that there is enough empty land to accommodate a city the size of Leeds. And before we begin to count the huge cost of enabling thousands of modest sensible ventures to get off the ground in the inner city, let us consider the enormous expenditure we have incurred in the past 40 years, pursuing grand strategies that have not worked.

"Our son was like a caged animal. Barnardo's turned him into a little boy."



"Alex was caged within himself, withdrawn and terribly disruptive. It was frustration that he couldn't hear us, he couldn't talk to us."
"He had two moods, one where he was rushing around and breaking things, the other where he would never leave my side."
"He shattered the back window twice in a few weeks - he just didn't understand it was wrong."
"I used to get up in the mornings and think 'How am I going to cope'. Then his speech therapist suggested we see a Barnardo's Day Care Centre."
The aim of Barnardo's Day Care Centres is to care for children between 2 and 5 with special needs. They may be at risk in some way, or have specific disabilities.
"At first I said no, because it was admitting that something was wrong with our child, but you'll do anything if it is going to help."
We try to maintain a ratio of one carer to three or four children, but our

parents are the experts. They know their children better than we ever can, so they're always welcome, and we learn a lot from them.
AND BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS (REBELLIOUSNESS)
BARNARDO'S DAY CARE CENTRE
CENTRAL DORSETSHIRE
BACK INTO THE REAL WORLD.
My immediate and lasting impression when we first arrived was that I no longer had to apologise for Alex - they'd seen it all before. Every child is accepted for what they are, it's as if no behaviour could disrupt or dismay the Barnardo's staff.
It's a 50/50 operation with the parents. An individual profile is drawn up, identifying the areas of development for each child. We discuss their progress constantly and the notes and

plans are always available for parents to see.
"When Alex went in he had a vocabulary of 20 words if you listened hard. He was hard to handle, and not much pleasure to be with. Now he's a happy and lovable little boy, and his vocabulary is huge."
Alex spent eighteen months coming to the Day Care Centre, and he's now in a proper school.
His metamorphosis is almost complete. We recently attended a christening, and for the first time I didn't have to slip out of the church with him. I watched my son, and was proud of him.
If it wasn't for Barnardo's I don't know what would have happened to us."
Barnardos Give young people a chance

If you'd like further information or would like to make a donation, write to: Barnardo's, Tanners Lane, Barkingside, Ilford, Essex IG6 1QG

HEALTH

# Minding the body

'Tis the season to be sick: how much is psychosomatic and how sympathetic should we be? Liz Gill reports

**D**o you find the Christmas festivities a real headache? Are you sick with terror at the thought of something going wrong this weekend? Is old Uncle Ebenezer a pain in the neck? If you use this phraseology you are acknowledging, albeit unwittingly, the complex interaction of mind and body that lies at the core of many illnesses.

Dr Philip Hopkins, a North London GP and founder of the Society for Psychosomatic Research, believes ordinary people have always been ahead of the professionals in this field. "Just look at our language. We talk about broken-hearted — how often have you read of someone having a heart attack after they've received some terrible news?"

"There is a real physical change, a serious impairment, but it's due to shock. People talk of their bowels turning to water when they are afraid, or of nearly dying with fright. And someone can be quite literally a pain in the neck, one's muscles get all stiff from the tension of being with that person."

happens if the woman leaves home or loses her job."

Hopkins would also include cancer. "I know a lot of doctors will not agree, but I've seen so many cases of patients getting cancer after something dreadful has happened to them. Life's problems are very relevant. I had cancer myself many years ago and it followed a time of great stress."

"Many patients have symptoms which do not fit any specific disease. They are all to do with anxiety: racing pulse, palpitations, nausea, lack of concentration, frequent need to visit the lavatory, headaches. You can worry yourself sick. It is not so much the stress, Hopkins says, as the individual's reaction to it."

"One man's stress is another man's stimulus. Christmas is a classic example of this. One person will be burdened and unhappy, and another will be loving it."

Doctors who pursue a psychosomatic approach must, he says, try to relate the onset of symptoms to an event or a state of mind. "You have to listen to what people do and don't say. You have to watch how they say it, even how they walk through the door. It is very time-consuming and I have a lot of sympathy with busy doctors. But I think there is an awful trend in our society to label people neurotic, when what people need is sympathy and support."

**C**onsultant psychiatrist at the Middlesex Hospital, Dr Oscar Hill, believes identifying the psychological component of a physical illness is most useful when it leads to a way of helping someone. But he also accepts that changing one's emotional self may be almost impossible.

"Being a worrier, for example, is a very basic characteristic of one's personality. Similarly, trying to get a workaholic to change may cause him to feel even more guilty about slacking. Sometimes it may be easier to tackle more concrete elements, such as diet, exercise or smoking habits."

Hill believes illness is a spectrum, with psychosomatic factors playing



a greater or lesser part in almost all conditions. Tackling root causes makes more sense than continually prescribing drugs, no matter how effective, he says, and cites asthma as an illustration. "There is a clear somatic difference between the bronchial tree of an asthmatic and that of a non-asthmatic, but there is a great deal of evidence that psychological difficulties, especially in children, can precipitate an attack."

"Yet you still get backwoodsmen paediatricians insisting that you only have to adjust the drugs and everything will be all right. Obviously, if the drugs are powerful enough you can deal with the end product. But it can also be dangerous. Research has shown that some families can become hostile to an asthmatic child for being so ill and such children are more likely to die from an attack."

Professor Rachel Rosser is head of the psychiatry department at University College London and treasurer of the International College of Psychosomatic Medicine, which has 300 members around the world. She also runs the in-patient psychosomatic unit at the Middlesex Hospital, which treats both mind and body. "Patients have very real somatic symptoms such as pain, nausea and breathlessness. We try to see to what degree organic factors have contributed and to

what degree psychological ones. It is not a case of either/or. Ninety per cent have significant physical illness which may have gone undetected for years, but they also have psychiatric illnesses or emotional difficulties."

She thinks it is misleading to classify certain illnesses as psychosomatic; instead the approach should be applied to all conditions. "People are not made of two separate parts. They are a total system."

Rosser, who has helped victims of the King's Cross fire, is interested in

## 'There is an awful trend in our society to label people neurotic'

post-traumatic stress disorders. She points out that in the year following a disaster, death rates from all causes rise. Admissions to her unit always increase in the run-up to Christmas. "Great festivities are a mixed blessing. People can find themselves under a lot of pressure."

Arthur Crisp, a professor of

psychiatry at the University of London and an expert on anorexia nervosa, says Christmas is the last straw for people with eating disorders. "I think they view Christmas with alarm because it's a time when the ground rules change and we have licence to behave in other ways."

A psychosomatic approach, he says, should identify three elements in the cause of disease: physical predisposition, life events and individual personality. "Changing the personality can be as big a task as changing the constitution — but it can be done."

Help may come from within, through increased maturity, or the ability to accept reality. It may come from without, through a fulfilling relationship, or the appropriate counselling, or the development of relaxation techniques, social skills and problem-solving abilities.

It may sometimes even come from Christmas. "The stresses of Christmas may purge some illnesses," Crisp says. On the other hand: "It gives people a break from routine and the chance to spend time with those they love. And whatever one's philosophy it may offer the potential for communion with something greater than oneself. Spiritual fulfilment is a very good thing for the human race."

# Back pain and work

In our hi-tech world, sedentary jobs are more likely to give you back ache than working on a building site

**P**rofessor Donald Grieve's biomechanics laboratory at the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine in London looks like a mad scientist's dream. It is full of huge Heath Robinson-type contraptions, all connected to computers and all invented by Grieve and his colleague, Dr Stephen Pheasant.

The unlikely-looking inventions are designed to test, under strict laboratory conditions, the various effects of certain loads and strains on the human frame. The practical application of the machines is to help cut injury at work and, in particular, to try and reduce the growing problem of debilitating back pain.

"In spite of increased automation in industry, injury rates at work are as high as before the Second World War," Grieve says. "And days off work for back pain have doubled in the past 10 years."

"People assume that back trouble occurs through heavy lifting. But most modern jobs don't involve a lot of lifting. The other factor is that back pain rates are going up far faster in women than in men. We feel that, in general, it's the jobs done mainly by women which are responsible for the recent huge increase in back pain."

Pheasant, an ergonomist and author of *Bodyspace: Anthropometry, Ergonomics, Design*, which gives information on how to improve work and domestic design, is certain that sedentary jobs and housework can be much worse for the back than being a hod carrier on a building site.

"People tend to think that if you're sitting around all day you aren't using your back," he says. "In fact, sedentary work can cause gross overuse and strain of the spine. Somebody who is working in a fixed posture, looking down a microscope, for example, is using muscles all the time to try and maintain an artificial position."

spine is cut off and pain develops.

"After a time, a sedentary worker will notice a nagging ache somewhere. In time, the ache starts earlier and earlier in the day, and eventually, it gets bad enough to disturb sleep. We have shown in this lab that persistent strain has a cumulative effect, and can cause agonizing back pain."

Although studies have shown that about 80 per cent of backache is work-related, the average home is far from risk-free, according to Pheasant. "Take a fitted kitchen," he says. "They are all more or less the same height and this height is fine for those under 5ft 4in. For two thirds of women, and practically all men, they are too low."

**E**asy chairs and sofas also come in for criticism. "With modern furniture, style is all," Grieve says. "The ironic thing is that everything was known about good chair design 300 years ago."

Pheasant says: "In offices and factories, back pain could actually be cured if all sedentary workers were provided with foot rests. This would mean that office chairs could be adjusted so that they supported backs properly."

"We recommend a five-minute break away from the work-station every hour, so that compressed muscles can be allowed to return to normal. Many workers on computers get completely carried away by what they are doing. Therefore, we suggest programming in an instruction: now take a break, which would come up on the screen every 40 minutes or so."

He says the ideal job is one which does not require a fixed posture for hours on end doing repetitive tasks, where you are not mentally tense — as mental tension puts strain on the back — and where there is high job satisfaction. People whose jobs fulfil all these requirements virtually never suffer from backache.

**Liz Hodgkinson** *Bodyspace: Anthropometry, Ergonomics, Design* is published by Taylor and Francis (£15).

# The measure of well-being

This Christmas children will, as always, be offended by the usual adult greeting, "ay, how you have grown". Although their change in height is apparent to an occasional visitor, it passes unnoticed by parents and doctors, who now often fail to record the rate of growth, and have become obsessed by a generally unimportant measurement, the child's weight.

The days when a family lived in one house long enough to mark the bathroom door with the height of the children have passed. With them has gone the ability not only to compare a particular child's growth with that of his contemporaries or siblings, which may well be irrelevant, but also to plot any variations in the rate of growth of the child, which is important. Changes in height are more significant than weight. A variation in the rate of growth is often the clue to an underlying physical or mental problem.

## MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

ern medicine has shown that unhappiness or physical illness may prevent cabs being added to the stature of those who are emotionally deprived or sickly.

Dr Charles Brook, consultant paediatrician at the Middlesex Hospital, speaking in London at the opening of the first international centre for the study of children's growth, said that the most important measurement in the child's physical development is the rate of growth, a factor which is independent of final height and therefore of family or race.

In his view, weight after the first few months of life is a most unreliable guide to the state of health of a child. A mug of

milk before the clinic nurse does the weighing might produce a pat on the back for the mother, whereas a strenuous game on the way to the clinic might cause the loss of a few ounces of fluid and result in anxious faces. The average child aged between two and 10 years gains only 1.5 kg a year, and body fluids make such a considerable difference to overall weight that the significance of serial weightings can be hard to recognize.

Dr Brook insists that if the gain in height — the "height velocity" — is inadequate, there may well be an underlying physical or mental problem. In his experience, anything from cerebral tumours to gastro-intestinal problems or emotional deprivation may be the cause. But once spotted an abnormal height velocity, in his view, needs investigating. He also believes children should be accurately measured at least once a year.

If there is a falling off in the height velocity, the family should want to know why.

## New defences

**S**ome people worried about salmonella in their eggs or contaminated turkey, have been further alarmed by press reports suggesting that there is no antibiotic which will rid the body of the bacteria. It is true that patients, after recovering from the initial symptoms, can in a

## Mood changes

few instances become symptomless carriers of the organism, but it is no longer true that nothing exists to eradicate salmonella.

The new generation of quinolones, the best known of which is ciprofloxacin, gives every indication that they have the power to revolutionize the treatment of typhoid, and its close relatives, the 1,500 types of salmonella.

## Steroid drugs

are useful in the treatment of many conditions and essential in some. Each year, hundreds of asthmatics die as the result of being given too little steroid too late, but like any powerful drug they have side-effects. One was advertised in court last week, when Mr Justice French freed a 27-year-old mechanic who had, after trying to bash his own head against a brick wall, attacked his girlfriend. Evidence was given that the mechanic was suffering from a steroid psychosis.

In a very few patients steroids affect the mood; euphoria or hypomania is more common than depression, and occasionally, as in the mechanic's case, an acute psychotic breakdown occurs. Press reports suggested that 5 per cent of patients on long term steroids may develop psychiatric symptoms, but the manufacturers of the type of steroid in question, dexamethasone, have only had 20 adverse psychiatric incidents reported worldwide.

An earlier survey of patients on long term treatment with effective doses of prednisolone, an older steroid, showed that there was some mood change, usually mild. Where possible, long term or heavy steroid therapy should not be used on patients with a history of psychiatric problems.

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**OUT NOW**

# TIMES DIARY

ALAN COREN

**T**hey are all gone into the world of light, and I alone sit lingering here... well, you would expect reverberant quotations to pop up in lieu of original expression, would you not, in a middle-aged graduate caught ambulating the moonlit quad of his old college, thirty years on, all mortals down for the Christmas vacation and nothing dancing on the grass but ghosts?

Especially as quotations are all I seem to have left of what I learned here. Time was, chapter and verse, merely minor constituents of study, deployed to render cockeyed theory plausible. It was the theory that counted. Once — when the brain was lean and fit and quick on its pins — if you'd suggested to me that Crabbe was not the last Augustan but the first Romantic, or that Thackeray owed nothing to Peacock, I should have come out fighting. Not any longer. When I finally pushed my handcart lifeboats over Magdalen Bridge in 1961, it was piled high with smart intellectual baggage, but as the adult road grew rougher, most everything fell off. All I have now is an old carrier-bag with a few resonant couplets in, and even that's getting lighter by the minute.

**I**n fact, I shouldn't have been in Wadham at all, last Saturday evening. I had come up for the St Thomas's Day Dinner in New College, but I had arrived early and needed to kill time.

I ought to have realized that that is all too precisely what you do when you step back through a doorway you stepped out of an hour earlier. Even so, I think I should have been able to cope with the inadvertently summoned spirits had I not, on wandering into Wadham's Chapel Quad, suddenly been confronted by Sir Maurice Boveris, dead these seventeen years yet lit, now, by a shaft of moonlight, recalling nothing so much as the resurrection, in his Viennese doorway, of Harry Lime. I blinked, but he was still there, outside my head, not in it.

It was, as Coleridge murmured from the carrier-bag, a sight to dream of, not to tell. Sir Maurice had come back as a chair. While I had heard that a bronze statue had been commissioned to commemorate the great Warden, I had not realized that the sculptor had chucked in the smock halfway through, leaving the job to be finished off by Habitat. There is the head and torso, accurate enough, bull-solid as in life, but it stops at the waist: below, cheap chairlegs. It is not only appalling in itself, it is an invitation to disrespect. You can sit in Boveris's lap. You can stand on him to look over the wall. If you had a folding table, you could, according to my carrier-bag, take your little porridge and eat your supper there.

What on earth was this selection committee up to? In some ghastly pun about the academic chair Boveris never had, do there lurk within this travesty mischievous personal allusions which the uninitiated can only guess at, or is it simply a matter of crude revenge being taken on one who, admittedly, accumulated more enemies than it is circumspect to leave behind?

How is a critic to deconstruct this artefact? More to the point, when will someone do it literally?

## BARRY FANTONI



'At least it can be programmed not to shoot the Government in the foot'

**M**uttering back into the main quad, I noticed a soft glow that had not been there ten minutes before. "But soft!" said the carrier-bag. "What light through yonder window breaks?"

Figures seemed to have taken up residence in one of the ground-floor lecture rooms. I walked across and peered in. Some twenty men and women lay on tables, in various states of undress, having their arms and legs pulled about by some twenty more. Grunting rattled the mullions. An experimental drama group, perhaps, giving up their vacation to interpret some modish Latvian absurdist? College oasparsons limbering up for the imminent season? Members of The Civil Defence Monday Club demonstrating their suspicion of glass-nuclear blitz?

I was still speculating when a small but efficiently-designed blonde girl emerged from the neighbouring doorway. I inquired. She replied: "Quoi? Slipping effortlessly into incomprehensible French in the hope that, as I gabbled, the carrier-bag might dredge up something suitably seductive from the 1954 O level set texts, thereby enabling me to spend a more diverting Sunday than I had anticipated — defrost a punt, scrounge a ukulele, introduce her to Scotch eggs, all that — I succeeded only in discovering that she was an osteopath."

There were dozens of them, convened thither from all over France. It was how the college made ends meet.

**D**uring the drinking that followed the astonishing New College dinner — whatever the carrier-bag's views on foie gras to the sound of trumpets, I am here to tell you that guinea-fowl to the sound of a galleried choir has it by the short head — I mentioned my unease at Wadham's boarders to the don beside me, recalling that in my day (a phrase I could not have used more than thirty or forty times that night), moonlighting groups were invariably foreign academics with whom the housing Fellows could cheer the academic fit to using professional effect. They weren't bloody chiropractors.

"Wadham's fortunate," he replied. "We've got Japanese toy manufacturers in ours. Yesterday they were throwing little lories out of the window to see if they'd break." And see, his eyes are flat with change, murmured the carrier-bag.

**Dublin**  
Those of us on both sides of the Irish Sea who are committed to seeing peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland must be concerned by the paralysis in Anglo-Irish relations. Conor Cruise O'Brien, writing yesterday, asked those who assert that the Anglo-Irish Agreement must be kept to justify their stance.

My feeling is that neither party to the Agreement has worked hard enough at operating it. Looking back on 1988, each can list grievances against the other. In some ways, the more significant things are those that did not happen.

It should be abundantly clear that — whatever one's ultimate objectives may be for the relationship between peoples on different parts of this island — the next step must be for ordinary people in Northern Ireland to look after their own lives. This is devolution. This is what the Anglo-Irish Agreement is about. There is an onus on the two governments to bring forward proposals for devolution. They have both failed to live up to this responsibility.

The Agreement could be a powerful force for change. In its first 18 months, my colleague Peter Barry was co-chairman of the Conference. In that short period, there was considerable progress on a range of specific issues. For example, the Con-

ference was responsible for changes in housing, in the laws relating to parades and incitement to hatred, in prisons policy, in policy on the Irish language, in the law on flags and emblems, in the area of supergrass trials, and in the law on the handling of police complaints, reform of the Emergency Provisions Act, and in the accompaniment of the UDR by the police.

In addition and most crucially, there has been some improvement in the relations between the police and the minority community. Regrettably, much of the progress made was cancelled out by the extraordinarily insensitive handling of the Stalker/Samson affair by the British Government.

The Agreement has utterly transformed the seemingly endless paralysis in the politics of Northern Ireland. Previous initiatives, no matter how well intentioned, had always failed through lack of nerve. I still vividly remember the widespread feeling of despair when the powersharing executive col-

lapsed in 1974; the Sunningdale Agreement died when the British Government willed in the face of loyalist opposition. It was the defeat of a democratically elected government by brute force. This Agreement has survived the wrath of those whose policy in the past has simply been to say "No".

For the first time, it was absolutely clear that the British Government would not be browbeaten into abandoning its own Northern Ireland policy by non-parliamentary force. Those of us who believe that the road to peace needs sustained courage and political consistency, saw this as a unique opportunity. It is nothing short of tragic that the momentum built up in the first 18 months of the Agreement's life was allowed to fade.

The workings of the Anglo-Irish Conference came up for review on its third anniversary on November 15. Some weeks earlier I travelled to London with my Foreign Affairs spokesman Peter Barry to meet the Secretary of State for Northern

Ireland. At about the same time we met representatives of the SDLP and the Alliance Party. Following these meetings, my party set out how the Conference should operate in the future.

First, the two governments must now state explicitly, in accordance with the Agreement, that they are determined to make devolution a reality. That is both governments must commit themselves to creating a framework in which both traditions can work together for their own economic and social wellbeing. Second, both should initiate pre-Conference consultations with the constitutional parties — North and South — within its jurisdiction.

Third, in advance of the removal of trade barriers within Europe in 1992, the Conference should examine the implications of the single European market, particularly as affects the border areas of the Republic and of Northern Ireland.

Finally the Conference should meet more regularly — at least 10 times a year. All too often we have meetings of the Conference in

response to increased terrorism. It is absurd that two sovereign governments should allow the terrorists — those who threaten our democracy — to set the agenda.

Those who, like Conor Cruise O'Brien, criticize the Agreement must answer the following questions: Is devolved government the next step forward in Northern Ireland? Is it not the case that this process will not just happen on its own? Must it be actively encouraged by the British and Irish governments?

The Agreement encourages the two communities to govern themselves. It provides that the Conference will restrict the areas to which it gives attention once there are structures in place to devolve power. For example, if the two communities agree to look after housing themselves, the Conference shall cease to have this within its remit. Is this incremental way the most practical way forward?

It is not the case that the Agreement guarantees that the Northern Ireland state will remain for as long as a majority in

the state wish this to be so? For Unionists, is this not the first time that the Government of the Republic of Ireland has explicitly — in treaty form — recognized the aspirations of the majority population in NI?

Is it not the case that both governments do now have a forum in which to resolve contentious matters? Bad as 1988 may have been for relations between these two governments, surely it would have been worse if we had not had the Conference?

While the two governments are showing no great enthusiasm for real political progress, is it not invaluable to have regular meetings on security?

Finally, isn't the potential still there for the two governments to put their backs behind the letter and spirit of the Agreement and use it to make devolution a reality?

The answer to each of these questions is "Yes". It is faint-hearted to dismiss the Agreement because the present governments have allowed it to slide down their political agendas. The last 18 months have seen extensive discussion between the two governments on security. This is necessary but it is not sufficient. The means are there to take a bold political step forward.

The author is leader of Fine Gael. As Minister of Justice in 1986 he played a key role in the first year of the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

## Alan Dukes points to the positive side of Hillsborough

# A working agreement

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## Gerald Kaufman

# In the depths of despair

**Y**ou've saved the Likud, I accused a member of the Israeli Labour Party on hearing Tuesday's announcement that, after seven weeks' stalemate following the uncertain outcome of last month's general election, Labour was to join its right-wing enemy in a "broad" coalition.

"Yes," he replied. "But we've saved Israel as well. And that's much more important."

He did not simply mean that Labour's participation in the new government has cut down to size the intolerable and intolerant regiment of rabbis who had been almost monopolizing Israeli television with braggart statements about the conditions they intended to lay down for joining a "narrow" coalition led by Likud. Such a rescue would have been salvation enough for Israelis horrified at the prospect of the transformation into a theocratic state of a country which had deliberately avoided the mention of God in its declaration of independence 40 years ago.

He was referring, too, to the advantage of Labour leader Shimon Peres taking over the Finance Ministry at a time when Israel is facing what Peres himself (whom I met at the agreeably ramshackle Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem) told me this week is a "terrible economic situation". Unemployment is a real problem, particularly in the less affluent development towns. The rise in living costs is triggering the fear of a return to the hyper-inflation of five years ago. Moreover, there was real pressure from the kibbutzim for Labour to enter the cabinet. These communal settlements certainly remain the ideologically-motivated segment of the economy which demonstrates that there is still a socialist heart beating in Labour's increasingly pragmatic body. They are, however, in worrying economic

shape and sorely need a government in which Labour is capable of bailing them out. Moreover, Labour's control of the nation's purse-string is the most reliable means of blocking finance needed for further settlements on the occupied West Bank. It was to ensure a total Labour grip that Peres insisted, despite urgings for compromise from party colleagues, that Labour tenure of the chairmanship of the key Knesset finance committee must be a non-negotiable condition for joining a coalition.

Likud's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir accepted that condition just as, to Labour's astonishment, he caved in to all the party's other demands as well: hence the turmoil at Likud's central committee and the narrow majority ratifying the deal.

A Labour right of veto on the further settlements after next year is one consolation for party members distressed that their leaders have agreed to the eight scheduled for 1989. Likud had wanted 40. However, the main objection of Labour doves to participation in the coalition on any terms is much more profound. They fear that their party, which stood out courageously for peace in the recent election campaign, is now silenced as a voice for negotiation in the new and daunting era that has begun with George Shultz's decision to open a dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

**O**n their nation's predicament following Yasser Arafat's statements in Geneva, the division between the two main parties is not as clear as the doves would like. While, I was told, Shamir was so incensed at the American volte-face on the PLO that this normally placid man was almost unapproachable for 48 hours, Yitzhak Rabin, Labour's Defence Minister, is just as untrusting of Yasser Arafat's concessions. When we talked



in being ready as part of a settlement to make considerable withdrawals from the occupied territories involving what Rabin calls "certain changes in the lines that existed before the Six Day War".

Most people I have spoken to in Jerusalem outside the Likud hierarchy, ranging from senior non-political officials right through to government drivers (here, as in Britain, the most reliable repositories of information during a cabinet reshuffle), accept that the Palestinian movement is here to stay and that the *intifada* has been successful in transforming the international political agenda.

All from Rabin through to the most dove-like leftists, are obsessed with the PLO's need to end terrorism. The problem, though, is that there is no consensus on how terrorism should be defined. Rabin is clear that any stone thrown by an

intifada activist is an act of terror. Others would confine that label to violence against civilian targets, not only including the use of bombs and hand-grenades in bus stations and market-places but also the stone that recently hit and seriously injured an eight-month-old baby. It is impossible to exaggerate the impact here of that event.

Still others, while not condoning any act of violence, are ready to concede that attacks on military objectives might lie on the borderline of terror. At the same time they are not sure how to categorize a military target. What, for example, about a border kibbutz?

The real difficulty facing Israel, however, is much more profound. Everyone, including Peres and Rabin, in my talks with them, has a possible solution. Maybe elections in the West Bank would be a way of

breaking the deadlock, though it is conceded that the PLO would win them. Maybe a transitional period of autonomy, with finance and defence excluded from Palestinian control might shift the log-jam. Perhaps — for an international conference is now seen as less of a nostrum even by such previously ardent advocates as Peres — talks sponsored jointly by the US and the Soviet Union might find a way through the present mess.

**T**hat Israel is in a mess would be denied by few. A country that for a generation dominated the region is now reduced to seeking ways of reacting to the initiatives of others. The despised Arafat has scored a huge propaganda coup. "By speeches the PLO have achieved more than with Kalashnikovs," Peres told me.

I have been visiting Israel for nearly thirty years. I was here during its previously most despairing period, leading up to the Six Day War, but that period lasted only three weeks and ended in a victory that raised Israeli morale and prestige to their highest levels. Today Israel's prestige in the world is at a nadir, and its morale is lower than I have ever known it.

These tenacious people will survive because they know they must. Yet the saddest aspect of their predicament is that I have met no one here in Jerusalem who believes that Israel's new government — even if it lasts very long — will be capable of finding a way through. The Israelis need help in coming to terms with the new Middle East agenda and responding to the world's demand for justice to the Palestinians. I very much hope that William Waldegrave's mission will make a contribution towards achieving the breakthrough that both the Palestinians and the Israelis so sorely need.

The author is Shadow Foreign Secretary.

## Commentary • RONALD BUTT

# Just thirty years on

Since a recent reminder in *The Times* diary that the cabinet papers for January 1958 will shortly be available to the public under the 30-year rule, I have been subject to bouts of mild political nostalgia. In that month, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Peter Thorneycroft, the financial secretary, Enoch Powell, and the economic secretary, Nigel Birch, all resigned on a matter of principle.

Their reason alone is matter enough for nostalgic recall. Resignations on principle were rare enough even then. Today, ministers who differ from the prevailing prime ministerial or cabinet view do not resign. At most they snipe abortively at what they dislike by means of obliquely sour weekend speeches and wait to be 'voted out one by one, only then unhesitating their principled wrath upon the administration to whose collective decisions they had lately consented. Nowadays, nothing short of a personal scandal which, for a time is taken as casting a shadow over character, or an inescapable obligation to take responsibility for a crass blunder, precipitates resignation.

There is also a certain nostalgia for the manner in which it was done. Thorneycroft's letter to Macmillan on January 6 was unambiguously and to the point. "Dear Prime Minister — I write to ask you to accept my resignation from the office of Chancellor of the Exchequer. My reason can be shortly stated. I am not prepared to approve estimates for... current expenditure next year at a total higher than the sum that will be spent this year."

Your proposed departure from this country on January 7 has made it essential that a decision of principle upon this matter be taken now. It is clear

that in this proposal I do not have your support or that of a number of our colleagues... Since the level of government expenditure is central to my responsibilities... resignation is the only course open to me... Nothing followed about its having been a privilege to serve, etc, though having resigned and extensively explained their position, the three ex-ministers were noticeably careful to do nothing wantonly to rock the boat. It was a resignation of which Plantagenet Palliser would not have been ashamed.

Macmillan replied that he was sorry Thorneycroft should have felt as he did when the difference between them was so narrow. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to restrain inflation but said that the "rigid application" of Thorneycroft's principles would do more harm than good, involving "cuts in vital services" especially those affecting family life, with a consequent effect on wage restraint. It was "not a matter of popularity... (but) of good judgement". Macmillan accepted no difference of opinion between them.

He then flew off to Nehru's India, the first British Prime Minister to visit that country, and a Commonwealth tour. Referring to "some recent difficulties in our affairs at home" which had caused him "a little anxiety" he added nonchalantly: "I thought the best thing to do was to settle these little local difficulties and turn to the wider vision of the Commonwealth."

He left behind him considerable discontent among a significant number of Tory MPs, and the Labour leader, Hugh Gaitskell, said the government was "visibly crumbling". But the

following year Macmillan went on to win the general election, which perhaps shows that if Thorneycroft knew about principle, Macmillan knew about popularity and politics.

Whether the cabinet papers reveal significantly more than we learned from both sides at the time remains to be seen. Macmillan left his press secretary, the late Harold Evans, who eventually became a baronet, to insist that it was an utterly trivial matter of a mere £50 million or (as he put it to me) "not much more than a half of one per cent". Less than one per cent became the generally used formula. But was that all it was? Or was it a more fundamental division of principle leading up to the election, as Thorneycroft and his supporters saw it? Was the question whether the people preferred inflation with high earnings and costs, or lower earnings without high inflation?

I shall not enter into how far the resignations were the precursor of the Thatcher government's balanced budgets and so-called monetarism. What had happened (to the best of my knowledge at the time) was that the cabinet had found itself faced with departmental estimates increased by a total of about £1.50 million over actual expenditure in the current year. By all-round pruning this had been reduced to £50 million without major policy changes, which sum (defence being sacrosanct) could only come from the social services, including school meals and milk, or higher National Insurance contributions, which were rejected because of the effect on pension claims. The resigners took the question to be not one of a mere £50 million but a matter of the general

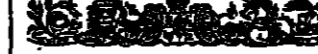
approach to public spending.

Remembering the reports of this brief furor one recalls how in those days politics, though no less ruthless, were more relaxed. It was an assured world. One could walk unchallenged up a Downing Street without barriers to the door of No 10 or No 11 to see whomsoever one had come to see, unquestioned by the policeman standing outside. It was a world without passes — even in the Palace of Westminster where every policeman and badge messenger knew, or was assumed to know, who everyone was. My car was parked casually each day in Old Palace Yard.

Despite the lack of the cruder sort of investigative journalism, information from all sides flowed pretty freely. The difference was, of course, that it was a rather better mannered political world and one in which Tory politicians in particular possessed a self-confidence and independence of judgement which came from a more or less shared social background. To resign was not necessarily the end. The present Lord Thorneycroft came back to Macmillan's government in another post and eventually joined Mrs Thatcher's, though he did not seem quite at home there. Enoch Powell returned to office too. Birch (later Lord Rhyll) did not. In a more devastating crisis, Birch challenged Macmillan's leadership, quoting against him in the Commons Browning's words on a "lost leader":

... let him never come back to us! There would be doubt, hesitation and pain. Forced praise on our part — the glimmer of twilight. Never glad confident morning again.

## ON THIS DAY 1830



The settlement at Swan River was the first in Western Australia and was originally composed of colonists seeking a land of plenty. They were soon disillusioned; by 1839 the colony could barely support itself. Ironically it was convict labour, transported between 1850 and 1868, which created prosperity.

## SWAN RIVER

The following letter is from one of the settlers in this new colony...

Freemantle, May 6, 1830.

"We have been here all miserably duped. It was impossible that the compounders of those delusive reports could so much have misconceived the true nature of this country; the truth is, that from the sea to the mountain range it is sand, intercepted at intervals by strips of red loam or marl; and on the margin of the rivers by narrow levels of rich alluvial soil. The 'fine, open, level, forest country,' and 'fine, undulating, grassy hills' of the chart, and of the *Quarterly Review*, are phantoms. The open forest country is sand, supporting trees which are certainly fine, and covered with rich flowers, shrubs, which possibly may be found capable of supporting stock, but the experiment remains to be made. The stock at present in the colony, amounting probably to 2,500 sheep, and 300 or 400 head of horned cattle, is supported on the rich grasses of the alluvial tracts, which is much too small in quantity for extensive grazing. The country over the mountains will probably furnish better pastures. Up to this time no effectual efforts have been made for passing the mountains; indeed, the inactivity of the colonial government in this respect is inexplicable. The strongest party of explorers for this purpose has been an assign

and six soldiers, with eight days' provisions; they penetrated the mountain range by the Eleanora, to a distance of 35 miles, without finding any difference in its character, or prospect of an open country beyond; but as their progress was circuitous, it is not supposed that their journey extended more than 10 or 12 miles in a right line. Great blame is attributable to the Government for their want of energy and apparent carelessness for the welfare of the very many disappointed settlers who have arrived here, and who have been deceived into a ruinous enterprise by the false representations of the *Quarterly* and the party. For the space of five months they have remained at Perth, with the full knowledge of the great numbers flocking to this desert, without making the least effort to gain a knowledge of a better country to offer to the emigrants on their landing; and knowing that all the land worth having on the Swan and Canning rivers had already been appropriated. At length a party of grasping settlers started on an expedition to the south, at their own cost and risk, after in vain soliciting assistance from the Government; they succeeded in finding a grassy country, the great desideratum, and on their return applied for grants of the land which they had been at so much trouble to discover, but hitherto in vain, — such is the encouragement tendered for private enterprise.

"The consequences of this misrule, or rather no rule, are daily becoming visible, an almost general dissatisfaction, many persons leaving who are still able to remove, others taking barren tracts of land, where in all probability their means will be uselessly expended, and themselves ruined, and others remaining with their goods spoiling on the beach, desponding and not knowing what to do whilst their means are daily diminishing until in a short time to many of them a remove will be impossible."



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## MOVEMENT IN MARSHAM ST

Mr Paul Channon has hinted, Mr Peter Bottomley has prevaricated. Mr Michael Portillo, most junior among the ministers at the Department of Transport, has had cause to revise what was, until last week, the official viewpoint. The signs now are that the custodians of road and rail transit in London are responding to public concern.

Quite what Mr Channon was hinting at in his weekend radio interview, or likewise Mr Portillo, on television the other night, is unclear. But from all three ministers has come during the past few days a glimmering recognition that they have to abandon the official position they have adopted towards the sclerosis in the capital's arteries.

They seem to be thinking anew. That is wholly welcome.

The Government is quite correct in emphasizing that the current London Regional Transport and British Rail investment plans are impressively high; that on both Network South East and the London Underground, extensive programmes of refurbishment and replacement are in hand. What Mr Channon and his colleagues seem not to have grasped, till now, is that such reiteration will not meet the public's dismay.

Mr Bottomley gives the impression of living in the past. Mr Livingstone and the demons of the Greater London Council have been vanquished; the Greater London Development Plan that the GLC spent so long putting into place is no more. It is no longer convincing to argue against the possibility of pan-London planning by reference to events now over a decade old.

What the public wants is a Conservative programme, not a restatement of the inequities of Labour's. It is in the positive presentation of such a simple necessity that transport ministers have been found wanting.

Their new year's resolutions ought to have the following form. The first is to commence a

serious dialogue with their colleagues next door in the tower blocks of Marsham Street. All the participants in this debate must see that London's transport needs cannot be gauged in the absence of broad outlines of how London is to grow during the 1990s.

Mr Channon should not be allowed to get away with the reply that he is awaiting the results of an expert study of London's rail network. This strategic question is not a matter for engineers, however necessary their expertise in the precise course of routes or on overground versus underground lines; it requires a political decision to channel a known growth in traffic to public avenues.

As a consequence of that, Mr Channon cannot wait much longer to grasp the nettle of physical or fiscal controls on the movement of private vehicles in central London. The exact mechanism of control (tougher parking restrictions, tariffs for road use, physical barriers) can be debated; what he must do is state clearly that restriction is needed, and that motorists will have to live with it.

There is a parallel decision to be taken. The equations made in the Department of Transport and the Treasury about the relative cost of road and rail traffic are unbalanced. Road congestion costs are rarely counted in. Too much attention is paid to the easily measured external financing limit of a public enterprise such as LRT without thinking through the benefits of LRT investment for swifter road movement.

In the new year Mr Channon must steel himself to go to his Cabinet colleagues for a re-examination of the limits on London transport spending as applied both to LRT and British Rail. This is not for the sake of a single year's investment programme but to ensure that from 1989 onwards a phased spending plan is in place to deliver equity between rail-users and the myriad indirect beneficiaries of improved London transport.

## CRUSADE BEHIND THE CURTAIN

This Christmas Pope John Paul will deliver the traditional *Urbi et Orbi* message to the world in more than 50 languages. It is essentially a good will address, to be marked in 1988 with compassion for suffering in Armenia and the soft glow of hope of peace in the Middle East, the Gulf, and Afghanistan.

But there is more to *Urbi et Orbi* than exhibiting a knack for foreign tongues. Speaking in Armenian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Ukrainian, Slovak, and Russian, in the full, rich linguistic spread of the Communist world, he is saying to the Christians, There: you are not forgotten.

As the Pope takes stock of the year, he may well reflect that this theme — the melting of the Iron Curtain — will dominate the next phase of his pontificate. The past decade has been hectic. As the most travelled Pope in history he has established himself as the head of a truly universal Church. He has set out his position on the role of women, on the dignity of work, on everything from homosexuality to international debt. There can be few Catholics in the world with any doubt about what this papacy stands for. The test of the next few years will be in how the Church reacts to the rapidly-changing complexion of a nominally atheist Communist world.

The talk of political pluralism, of a more variegated civil society in the Soviet Union, may turn out to be a disabbling discussion of options later to be discarded. The Church's instinct, borne of long, well-grounded suspicion, is to wait patiently and find ways of protecting Christians in the atheistic states.

But now is the time to put that instinct to one side. The Church has the chance to be more assertive in the Soviet bloc and beyond; the cracks in the system should be exploited.

The Pope is planning visits to China and Hungary; Mr Gorbachov is considering a trip to Rome; papal pilgrimages to Lithuania, Latvia, the Ukraine, perhaps even Armenia, are within grasp. That is encouraging, but it needs a closer definition of the Vatican's strategy than was needed for the three pilgrimages to Poland.

## A LOST CHILD

Each time a court hears the tale of yet another baby battered to death by inadequate parents inevitable grief and shock are mixed with anger. Anger that after a series of public inquiries that have each thrown up sensible suggestions on how not to let it happen again, it has happened again. Doreen Mason, whose mother and stepfather were both sentenced yesterday to 12 years in jail for manslaughter, was known to be at risk from birth. Yet still the social services allowed her 16-month life to be scarred by torture and ended in a horrific death.

In this case the standard excuses do not apply. Of course no social services system will work unless neighbours, friends, and relatives are prepared to take responsibility for alerting the authorities when they suspect violence. But Doreen was on the "at risk" register as soon as she was born. Her brother had died a suspicious "cot death", covered in bruises.

Clearly, the inner-London boroughs cannot afford to assign a social worker to every child at risk. The House of Commons social services select committee reported last month that at least 600 London children known to have been abused had no social worker on their case. But Doreen had.

The social worker, Miss Gillian Langford, had a mass of telling evidence. Several times she tried to see Doreen; most times she was rebuffed. Despite all this, no action was taken to bring the wretched baby into care.

It seems to be a sorry tale of incompetence, ineffectuality, and inexperience. Doubtless an inquiry will be able to parcel out blame. But can more be done to prevent recurrences?

Saving children from abuse needs both a legislative and a managerial framework. Once the Children Bill — now passing through Parliament — becomes law, the legislation will

What does the Church want from Communist states? Plainly, improved civil, human, and religious rights. But it can and should be more concrete, more pressing in states where the reins of party control are genuinely being loosened. This is not to suggest that the Pope should reverse his criticism of the complete identification of some priests, notably in Latin America, with political activism. But short of that there is more that the Church can do to assist the momentum towards the establishment of the fundamental freedoms inside which temporal political activity takes place.

The Church is currently too strict in discouraging political activity in the name of the Church. What the Communist societies need most at the moment is not Western credit but fresh, buoyant ideas to fill the intellectual vacuum left by the retreat of Marxism-Leninism. The Church should be active here, sponsoring political clubs that can take advantage of the new pluralism.

It should not be afraid of supporting Christian Democratic parties, should they ever emerge. There should be no stigma in priests or laymen co-operating with the Government to tackle drug addiction, alcoholism, or educational problems.

The Pope is closely tied to his Polish experience, which has placed the Church as a mediating force between the people and the authorities in an effort to preserve the sense of nationhood. That mission has its own imperative: if the Polish Church is to sway the Government on human rights then it cannot be seen to be partisan, part of an opposition coalition with solidarity.

But this situation is specific to Poland, a deeply Catholic country. There is no reason why the numerically much weaker Catholic Church in Hungary or Czechoslovakia should be so inhibited. In the Soviet Baltic states, in the Ukraine, the Catholic Church should become a political participant — as a separate, self-willed, self-confident force for Christian change. Christians should not just define the problems of Communism but become part of the solution too.

be improved. But the problem is more deep-seated than that.

Those who go into social work want to help those in need. Often they lack confidence in, or even disapprove of, the twin role they should fulfil as social policemen. Families should, of course, be encouraged to stick together where possible. But there will always be a minority of cases in which the rights of family members conflict. In those cases there may be no alternative to separation.

The more obstructive a parent is, the more urgent may be the need to take action. In Doreen's case, the social worker was apparently intimidated by the stepfather. That is not surprising, for there is a pattern in these cases. A violent stepfather scares a mother into silence, and if he can terrorize the mother, he can probably do the same to a young, female social worker.

The answer is not to keep visiting and keep being rebuffed. It is to put an older, more experienced, possibly male, worker on to the case; and if necessary, to ask a police officer to accompany him.

More generally, the answer lies in more specialized social-work training. Dealing with violent fathers is quite different, say, from helping young mothers to find care for their children while they go out to work.

It also means trying to raise the quality of recruits. Sadly, the more social workers are blamed for tragedies such as Doreen's, the less attractive such a career appears. Caught between accusations of over-assertiveness (Cleveland) and neglect (Jasmine Beckford, Tyra Henry, Doreen Mason, and a host of others), social work must now be one of the world's most thankless jobs. It would be a terrible pity if the bad social worker drove out the good.

## Wary response to Mr Arafat

From Lord Rothschild, FRS

Sir, Article 6 of the Palestinian National Covenant, 1969, states that Jews who had normally resided in Palestine until the beginning of the "Zionist invasion" would be considered Palestinians. The "Zionist invasion" started, according to a resolution of the fourth PNC, in 1917. In other words, any Jew who was not normally resident in Israel before 1917 would be outlawed, expelled, imprisoned, or worse.

No doubt Mr Yasser Arafat, in his new conciliatory mood, which includes, I think, recognition of Israel's existence, will publicly reject article 6, and many others for that matter, in the Palestinian National Covenant. But if, instead, he attempts to specify frontiers before the negotiations, the negotiations will, of course, be stultified and sterile.

To anticipate a comment, rhetoric and poetic imagery need to be put to the test of serious, searching, and specific negotiations before they can be taken at their face value.

Yours truly,  
ROTHSCHILD,  
Trinity College,  
Cambridge,  
December 21.

## Heavy on the roads

From Mr E. Loevy

Sir, A report in your issue of December 5 indicates the legitimate police concern at the overloading of coaches returning to the UK from Calais day-trip spending outings. However, the changed handling and braking of such overloaded coaches is far less serious than the frequent and gross overloading of HGVs (heavy goods vehicles), particularly in Kent and on all motorways.

Surveys have shown that HGVs are on average 13 per cent heavier than their formally-declared weight, which means, in statistical terms, that any one vehicle could be 25 per cent overweight. Its stopping distance, even if its brakes are 100 per cent efficient and it is not speeding, is at least three times that of ordinary cars, while its destructive power is at least 30 times as great.

I remain your obedient servant,  
E. LOEUV,  
Smanwood,  
Highmoor,  
Henley-on-Thames,  
Oxfordshire,  
December 13.

## Bias in the arts?

From Mr Michael Colvin, MP for Romsey and Waterside (Conservative)

Sir, Lord Goodman's article ("This tragedy for the arts", December 10) was wrong in fact and figures.

He complains, by implication, of Tory toadie arts appointments — tell that to Sir Richard Attenborough, David Cargill, or Anthony Smith — and of Government indifference to arts funding. Is he unaware that Government spending is up by 33 per cent — even allowing for inflation — since the Tories took office? The arts budget was £417 million last year, when arts minister Richard Luce announced his new three-year rolling-programme budget, so that arts bodies could plan well ahead.

Lord Goodman was a splendid chairman of the Association for the Business Sponsorship of the Arts from 1976 until November of this year, and the Government's business sponsorship incentive scheme has attracted £21 million of new business money into the arts. I have two arts festivals in my area which could not exist without it.

Add to all this important tax concessions to help the arts; the National Heritage Memorial Fund, which the Government set up in 1980 with over £105 million funding; acceptance of in-hen-of-taxes arrangements; Government spending on museums and galleries up 26.5 per cent in real terms since 1979; and a Garden, though not utopian, which at least begins to look rosier. Seven new theatres have opened and there have been 22 major renovations all over the country since 1979.

Was it Lord Goodman who wrote the article; or was it his ghost? If so, it was the Ghost of Christmas Past (pre-1979). Yours sincerely,  
MICHAEL COLVIN,  
House of Commons,  
December 15.

From Lord Goodman, CH

Sir, May I encroach on a couple of inches of your space to correct an injustice by error on my friend Mr Patrick Cormack, MP, which featured in my article on December 10.

Had I known that Mr Cormack had been Lady Lee's Conservative opponent in the election in 1970, when she lost her seat, I would have realised that it could not be the case that he would have conducted a campaign which alleged that Jennie neglected the day-to-day concerns of her constituency in order to serve "elitist" arts.

Patrick Cormack has probably given as good and better service to the arts than any other private member. I am regretful if in any way I have cast any reflection on his splendid record in the area of the arts.  
Yours faithfully,  
GOODMAN,  
9-11 Fulwood Place,  
Gray's Inn, WC1,  
December 20.

## Soviet thanks for aid to Armenia

From the Ambassador of the USSR

Sir, The tragic disaster in Armenia brought about an overwhelming sympathy for its victims and those directly affected. In Britain this sympathy was followed by prompt and generous practical aid to the Soviet people in earthquake-stricken areas.

British rescue teams, firemen, doctors rushed to Armenia to help on the spot. Medical supplies, clothes, foodstuffs were sent by numerous UK companies and organisations to Erevan. Generous donations were made to the Armenian relief. All this aid was meant to go straight to the people in Armenia and there it has gone.

I know how highly people of my country appreciated this magnanimous assistance in the hour of tragedy. It was particularly valued

by those in Armenia who lost their kin, their belongings, sometimes everything. It is difficult to find words to express our heartfelt gratitude to the British people. Thank you for your practical help, for your tears of compassion, for sincerity of your feelings.

This magnificent response of the British people showed an example of mutual help and compassion in our increasingly interdependent world.

Finally, I should like to offer the season's greetings and best wishes of happiness, success, and good health to all your readers.

Yours sincerely,  
L. ZAMYATIN,  
Embassy of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,  
13 Kensington Palace Gardens, W8,  
December 21.

## Disaster relief

From Group Captain G. L. Chesire, VC, OM

Sir, Your correspondents (December 20) suggest the establishment of a national fund to provide instant relief when natural disaster occurs. It was precisely with this need in mind that on Remembrance Sunday I launched the World War Memorial Fund for Disaster Relief.

Although no money is being spent on promotion, the appeal is steadily gathering momentum, both here and abroad. Many of the deeply-moving letters that flow in each day mention a relation or a friend whom the donor wants

remembered; it is as if the fund were filling an unexpressed but widely felt need in the heart of contemporary man. I see it as a way for those whom the ordeal of world war once divided to express their solidarity with those whose ordeal is yet to come.

My target is £5 for each precious life lost in those two fearful wars, which would provide a permanent capital sum of £400 million, large enough to provide a significant yearly income instantly available when disaster strikes.

Yours sincerely,  
LEONARD CHESHIRE,  
The Memorial Fund,  
PO Box 70, London SW1P 2QY,  
December 20.

## 'Glasnost' in action

From Mr Martin Gilbert

Sir, Just over five years ago you published a letter from me protesting at the refusal of the Soviet Government to grant exit visas to more than 40 families of Russian Jews, whom I had met in Moscow, Leningrad, and Minsk.

A year and a half ago, after I had crossed swords at the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva with the Vice-President of the Association of Soviet Jurists about Jews who were then in labour camp for their part in the struggle to leave the Soviet Union, you published a second letter from me. Its theme was that Soviet protestations of a change in policies were not yet fully matched by deeds. I specifically named five "long-term" refusenik families.

During 1987 all Jewish prisoners who had been active in the emigration movement were re-

leased from labour camp. During 1988 almost all of them have been allowed to leave the Soviet Union. At the same time, all but three of the 40 families whom I had met in 1983, and again in 1985, were granted their exit visas.

A few days ago I learnt that the last three of the five whom I had named in my letter to you — two of them former prisoners — have now been told they, too, can leave.

Each observer will have his or her own yardstick by which to estimate the extent of change in the Soviet Union. The fact that all "my" 40 families have received their exit visas would certainly make it churlish of me not to recognise that, in the vital sphere of human rights, Mr Gorbachov and *glasnost* have made significant strides.  
Yours sincerely,  
MARTIN GILBERT,  
Merton College, Oxford,  
December 16.

## Further thoughts on the eggs scare

From Mr K. C. Spencer

Sir, The packing station to which we send our eggs, with a throughput of five million eggs per day, has been testing for *Salmonella enteritidis* since July from every local producer and has not found one egg infected. These figures speak for themselves.

Yours faithfully,  
K. C. SPENCER,  
Managing Director,  
Kenneth Spencer Ltd,  
St Martin's Farm,  
Zeals, Warminster, Wiltshire,  
December 21.

From Dr Rosamond A. Cox

Sir, Mrs Currie's departure from the Department of Health coincided with the confirmation of the results of the salmonella phage type 4 in this health district. This represents a seven-fold increase over the total for 1985.

All this year's cases have been sporadic, so it is impossible to identify the food responsible. It may therefore be a coincidence that the most recent case was a five-year-old child who became ill after she had licked the bowl her mother had used to beat up raw egg whites for Christmas cake icing.

A further suspected case, again in a child, was diagnosed this weekend. There is no doubt that there is a serious epidemic of infection in the United Kingdom due to this strain of salmonella. There is good scientific evidence that this has been caused by infected eggs and poultry.

Yours sincerely,  
ROSAMOND A. COX,  
(Consultant microbiologist),  
Kettering Health Authority,  
Department of Pathology,  
Kettering & District  
General Hospital,  
Kettering, Northamptonshire,  
December 20.

From Sir James Howie

Sir, What was Edwin Currie's error? She should have asked the poultry-producing industry what it was doing to control salmonellosis, about which it had been well and truly informed at least eight years ago.

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES HOWIE (Director, Public Health Laboratory Service, 1963-73),  
34 Redford Avenue, Edinburgh 13.

From Mr M. C. Jones

Sir, On the same day (December 16) that your headlines proclaimed that egg producers were issuing writs against Mrs Currie, and the Government's campaign to rescue the egg occupied the whole of page nine, an article at the bottom of page three announced the withdrawal of a research grant by the Ministry of Agriculture from a project which was confidently predicted to rid poultry flocks of salmonella.  
Can this be the ultimate irony of the present Government's approach to scientific research?  
Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL JONES,  
86 Victoria Road, N22,  
December 19.

From Mr R. W. Shepherd

Sir, Sir Yehudi Menuhin's analogy (December 20), casting Mrs Currie in the role of the messenger executed for bringing bad news, is flawed. Cleopatra's battle was already lost and her army far away.

The nation's army of poultry keepers (amongst whom I do not number) are in our midst and, notwithstanding Mrs Currie, wage a battle to provide eggs at the lowest possible price to the consumer, pursuant to UK Government policy for over 40 years.

There is nothing dishonourable in their activity. As humans, we are organisms preying upon other organisms for our survival. However sophisticated the mechanism, this remains the case. Inevitably, therefore, we share some disease susceptibility with some of our food sources.

Salmonella is by no means the first or the most serious. Tuberculosis, brucellosis, and leptospirosis have all been identified and controlled, if not eliminated, in this country by that ministry with which Mrs Currie is reported to have become impatient.

Should anyone in authority have been so cavalier of food supply as to imperil a source by dwelling on the risks attached to consuming the food in question?

Yours faithfully,  
ROWLAND W. SHEPHERD,  
Managing Director,  
Shepherd Farms Ltd,  
Boxalland Farm, Haslemere, Surrey,  
December 20.

From Sir David Lane

Sir, Mr John Biffen's mention of "arrogance" (December 16), in the context of Mrs Currie's latest gaffe, is timely. As a Conservative I am increasingly troubled by this unattractive aspect of the Government's style. The "we know best" attitude seems to have infected ministers from the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer downwards.

During the Christmas recess, classical scholars in the Cabinet might usefully remind their colleagues that hubris leads to nemesis.  
Yours truly,  
DAVID LANE,  
5 Spinney Drive,  
Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire,  
December 16.

From Sir Robert Sanders

Sir, "The lion's share of the haddock quota" (Mr Provan's letter, December 15) prompts a late entry for your altered proverb competition: "Pride goes before a haul".  
Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT SANDERS,  
Greystones Lodge,  
Broich Terrace,  
Crieff, Perthshire.

From Mrs C. M. F. Knapton

Sir, Our tree lights have just been brought out for their twenty-third Christmas. The box is marked "Empire made, 16/1d".  
Yours truly,  
KATIE KNAPTON,  
61 Rock Road, Cambridge,  
December 15.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5046.

## Terror campaign in N Ireland

From the Leader of the Opposition Sir, Your story today (December 20), headlined "Kinnock tells Ulster families to stay on", seems to have misunderstood what I actually said. Since the matter is important, I would be obliged if you would allow me to give the necessary detail.

During my visit to Northern Ireland on Monday there was naturally interest in the Provisional IRA's "campaign" of bombing attacks on Forces families' quarters and I was asked by a journalist in Enniskillen, "Are you telling the Forces' families to stand firm?" My reply was:

No, no one could do that. They are not a military unit. But the effect on morale of having loved ones near at hand is very important. The other important consideration is that no concessions must be made to terrorism. Withdrawal of families would be that.

The view which I expressed in Enniskillen, which was based on good advice and knowledge of soldiers' families, was very firmly endorsed when I later met soldiers' wives. Indeed, people who watched television news on Monday night will know that the determined and courageous attitude of servicemen's wives is that they will, to quote one of them, "stand by our men".

Your brief report, like some in one or two other newspapers, gave the impression that I was somehow recommending a course of action to families in spite of the dangers arising from the Provisional IRA "campaign". That is not and would not be true.

The Provisional IRA attacks on Forces' families are craven even by terrorist standards of cowardice and it is clear that maximum feasible security must be given to Forces' families everywhere.

Meanwhile the judgement of soldiers of all ranks and their families should be trusted and respected.  
Yours faithfully,  
NEIL KINNOCK,  
House of Commons,  
December 20.

From Vice-Admiral Sir James Jungius

Sir, I see that the IRA's Christmas offering is a campaign of murdering innocent women and children, starting from about Christmas Eve and announced in their recent threat to the families of servicemen in Ulster.

It is a sad commentary on our times that this horrific prospect has produced little in the way of reaction in the media, Parliament, or elsewhere. Have the IRA reduced us all to the point where we accept the threat of mass murder of women and children as an unremarkable part of everyday life?

In particular I have heard no cry from the Roman Catholic Church, who could do so much to prevent such a campaign getting started. Nor have I heard a statement of horror and revulsion from the Irish Government, though I confess that recent events make one wonder whether we can ever expect them to really stand up and be counted in the fight against the IRA. I hope their consciences are clear in this Christmas season.

Meanwhile I am sure that tens of thousands of ex-servicemen and women will join me in wishing service families in Northern Ireland a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Our hearts are very much with you.  
Yours faithfully,  
JAMES JUNGUIS,  
Lalwithick, Mylor Churchtown,  
Falmouth, Cornwall,  
December 18.

## Clapham rail crash

From the Rev Dr Robert Letham  
Sir, Your reports of the Clapham rail disaster (December 13) indicate that bodies were thrown across the carriages by the impact. It is very probable that injuries and mortality were thereby made worse.

The wearing of seat belts on planes has long been standard and is now mandatory in cars. Overall, we recognize that lives are saved by the practice. Yet we are propelled around the country by train at speeds of up to 125 mph with no such protection available. Is this not a serious anomaly?  
Yours sincerely,  
R. W. A. LETHAM,  
12 Chalgrove Road,  
Thame, Oxfordshire,  
December 14.

## Relative values

From the Rector of Guildford St Nicholas

Sir, As I make ready for Christmas, I reflect that half a century ago the gross income of this benefice was £665. My predecessor of that time, Archdeacon Lucas, could, for £1, send 480 Christmas cards. Now, for £1 I can send seven, and have 2p change to jingle in my pocket. To post 480 cards would cost me £67.20.

If the benefice income were linked to that index, I should be paid £44,688.00 per annum.

Sir, I am not.  
Yours truly,  
BRIAN TAYLOR,  
The Rectory, The Flower Walk,  
Guildford, Surrey.

From Mrs C. M. F. Knapton  
Sir, Our tree lights have just been brought out for their twenty-third Christmas. The box is marked "Empire made, 16/1d".  
Yours truly,  
KATIE KNAPTON,  
61 Rock Road, Cambridge,  
December 15.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE December 21: Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Simon Bland had the honour of being received by the Queen upon relinquishing his appointment as Comptroller, Private Secretary and Equerry to Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester and to The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester.

Lieutenant-Commander Sir Richard Buckley, R.N. had the honour of being received by Her Majesty upon relinquishing his appointment as Private Secretary to The Duke and Duchess of Kent.

His Excellency Mr. Rolf T. Busch and Mrs. Busch were received in farewell audience by the Queen and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from Norway to the Court of St. James's.

There were present: The Right Hon. John Weir, M.P. (Lord President), the Lord Belstead (Lord Privy Seal), the Lord Denham (Captain, Gentlemen at Arms), the Right Hon. Malcolm Rifkind, M.P. (Secretary of State for Scotland), the Right Hon. Peter Walker, M.P. (Secretary of State for Wales), the Right Hon. Tom King, M.P. (Secretary of State for Northern Ireland), and the Right Hon. David Williams, M.P. (Parliamentary Secretary, Treasury).

Mr. Geoffrey de Deney was in attendance as Clerk of the Council.

The Right Hon. John Wakeham, M.P., had an audience of Her Majesty before the Council. KENSINGTON PALACE December 21: The Prince of Wales received the Prime Minister at St. James's Palace.

Subsequently His Royal Highness, President, The Prince of Wales Advisory Group on Disability (Chairman), representatives of the London Spinal Unit, Royal Orthopaedic Hospital and of ASPIRE, their support group, at St. James's Palace.

Afterwards the Prince of Wales will pay a private visit to the Manor of Kennington. Mr. David Landale was in attendance.

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales will undertake some official engagements.

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales will pay a private visit to the U.S.A. in the latter part of February 1989 during which he will undertake some official engagements.

Lord McDonald, who has been a Scottish judge since 1973, will retire on January 1. Lord McDonald, who is 72, won the MC with the KOSB during World War Two.

The Oratory School The Oratory School Society held its annual Old Boys' dinner on Wednesday, December 14, at the Army & Navy Club, St. James's. Mr. Edward Thornycroft, Chairman of the Governors of the Oratory School, and Mr. Maurice Lynn, the Headmaster, were present. The Society's annual general meeting preceded the dinner.

Anniversaries Births: John Crane, landscape painter, Norwich, 1768; Jean Henri Fabre, naturalist, Saint-Leons, France, 1823; Giacomo Puccini, Lucca, Italy, 1858; Edgar Varèse, composer, Paris, 1883.

Deaths: George Elliot, London, 1850; Nathaniel West, novelist, El Cinto, California, 1940; Beatrix Potter, children's writer, author of Peter Rabbit, Sawrey, Lancs, 1943; Harry Langdon, comedian of silent films, California, 1944.

Alfred Dreyfus was imprisoned on Devil's Island, French Guiana on a charge, later proved false, of espionage, 1895.

SCIENCE REPORT The puzzle of the marsupial sex gene

Kangaroos, wallabies and their relatives are disrupting ideas about how individuals come to be male or female; new research shows that they do not have a gene thought to be crucial in determining maleness in other mammals. This finding complicates the elegant simplicity of an idea put forward only a year ago that seemed to solve the mystery of sex determination.

In mammals, the sex of an individual is seen in the chromosomes, the thread-like structures inside every cell that determine the pattern of inheritance by virtue of the genes they contain. Most chromosomes are similar in structure irrespective of sex: these chromosomes are called autosomes. But there is also a special pair of sex chromosomes, X and Y. Females have a pair of X chromosomes, whereas males have a single X and a much smaller Y. But different animals have different methods of sex determination.

The arrangement in birds, for example, is the mirror-image of that in mammals: male birds are XX and females are XY. (Researchers prefer to call these ZZ and ZW, to differentiate from the mammalian system.) But chromosomes reflect rather than determine sex. Researchers reasoned that there ought to be a gene on either or both the sex chromosomes that determined the sex of the individual. The Y chromosome seemed a likely candidate because it is the Y chromosome that is the mark of maleness.

Marriages

Mr J.H.T. Hibbert-Hingston and Mrs S. Michelmore The marriage took place quietly in Devon, on December 7, of James, younger son of Mr and Mrs Andrew Hibbert-Hingston, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and the late Mrs Dickinson.

Mr R.E. Keynes and Miss Z. Hourani The marriage took place on December 16, of Ramon Hourani, son of Mr and Mrs R.E. Keynes, and Zelfa, daughter of Cecil and Zulfah Hourani.

Mr A.C. Laidlaw and Miss D.M.P. Foster The marriage took place at All Saint's Church on Saturday, November 19, 1988, of Mr and Mrs A.C. Laidlaw, and Mrs D.M.P. Foster, daughter of Dr and Mrs D. Charlton-Smith, of Wellesbourne, Warwickshire.

Mr D.H. Martinson and Mrs W. Rogers The marriage took place in Solihull, on December 3, 1988, of Mr David Martinson, of Sutton Coldfield, and Mrs Wendy Rogers, of Solihull.

Mr J.D.F. Palmer and Miss A.S. Gordon The marriage took place yesterday at St. Columba's Church, of Scotland, Pont Street, of Mr Jeremy Palmer, elder son of Major-General Sir Michael and Lady Palmer, of West Stafford, Dorset, to Miss Angela Gordon, daughter of Mr M.M.B. McEwen, of Orkney, and Mrs J. McEwen, of Orkney, and Mrs J. McEwen, of Orkney.

The bride, who was given in marriage by Dr Tom Stottford, was attended by Amy Burridge, Sophie and Matthew Hodges and Antonia Palmer. Mr John Forshall was best man.

A reception was held at the Cavalry and Guards Club and the honeymoon will be spent in East Africa.

University news

Queen's, Belfast Appointments Mr Simon Francis Lee and Mr Herbert Wallace have been appointed to chairs in the faculty of law.

Dr Donald Davison, of the department of applied mathematics and theoretical physics, has been appointed university lecturer.

Dr Donald Davison, of the department of applied mathematics and theoretical physics, has been appointed university lecturer.

Forthcoming marriages

Captain G.C.N. Lane Fox and the Hon R.M. Baring The engagement is announced between George Charles Nicholas Lane Fox, The Blues and Royals, son of Mr and Mrs George Lane Fox, of Bramham Park, Wetherby, West Yorkshire, and the Hon Rachel Monica, eldest daughter of Lord and Lady Howick of Glendale, of Howick Hall, near Alwick, Northumberland.

Mr W.P. Nesbitt and Miss C.L. Charlton-Smith The engagement is announced between William, son of Mr and the Hon Mrs M.W. Nesbitt, of Fritwell, West Sussex, and Caroline, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs D. Charlton-Smith, of Wellesbourne, Warwickshire.

Mr T.D. Ramm and Miss M.L.C. Richards The engagement is announced between Timothy, son of Mr and Mrs T.D. Ramm, of Guildford, Surrey, and Miranda, only daughter of Lieutenant General Sir John and Lady Richards, of Clock Tower House, St. James's Palace, Warwickshire.

Mr D.H. Fraser and Miss F. Ward The engagement is announced between David, younger son of Mr and Mrs D.H. Fraser, of London, Major H. Ralph, Professor and Mrs W.R. Ward, of Petersfield.

Captain A.J. Groom, RA and Miss S.P. Williamson The engagement is announced between Anthony, son of Brigadier General G.A. Groom, of Tunbridge Wells, Kent, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.C. Williamson, of Great Tey, Essex.

Mr J.E. McKenzie-Hall and Miss L.A. Antonik The engagement is announced between James Richard, elder son of Mr and Mrs C.H. Bere, of Chilworth Farm, Chard, Somerset, and Mary Ruth, daughter of the late Mr G.W. Clark and Mrs E.J.M. Clark, of North Barn, Cathering, Fivehead, Taunton, Somerset.

Mr J.R. Barrows and Mrs E.N. Godlee The engagement is announced between Christopher, youngest son of the late Mr Timothy Barrows and Mrs Catherine Barrows, of Bournemouth, and Fiona, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs Nicholas Godlee, of Primrose Hill, London.

Captain M.R.H. Burrows, RE and Miss F.K. Jupp The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs T.R. Burrows, of Chisleley, Berk-

Birthdays today

Air Chief Marshal Sir John Aiken, 67; Mr James Burke, broadcaster, 52; Dr Alan Bush, composer, conductor and pianist, 88; Viscount Darvelley, 50; Mr Noel Edmunds, broadcaster, 40; Miss Patricia Hayes, actress, 79; Mrs Karin Jozzen, sculptor, 74; Air Vice-Marshal Sir Edgar Lowe, 83; Dr Judith McClure, health adviser, The Royal School, Bath, 43; Mr Chris Old, cricketer, 40; the Rev Lord Sandford, 68; Lord Stott, 79; the Duke of Westminster, 37; Colonel W.H. Whitbread, brewer, 88; Mr Ken Whitmore, playwright, 49; the Very Rev J.L.S. Wild, former Dean of Durham, 84.

Dame Peggy Ashcroft, actress, 81

Mr Stewart Taverner Bates QC and Mr Thomas Hywel Moseley QC to be Circuit Judges

Mr Hugh Cahill to be a Commissioner of English Heritage with special responsibility for work in London

London Business School has announced that Sir Terence Burns, Chief Economic Adviser to the Treasury, and Sir Ian Wallace, Chairman of British Telecom, are to become Fellows of the School.

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OBITUARIES SIR PHILIP MAGNUS-ALLCROFT Convivial biographer of the heavyweights



Sir Philip Magnus-Allcroft, who died yesterday aged 82, was a biographer and historian who took on major figures. Burke, Raleigh, Gladstone and Kitchener were among those who "sat" for him, to use his own verb.

But he will be remembered above all for his biography, King Edward The Seventh, published by John Murray (1964) and later in paperback by Penguin. It was this book which won Magnus his greatest acclaim and turned him into a welcome figure at dinners and a much sought-after speaker on matters literary and biographical.

He was born on February 8, 1906, and educated at Westminster and Wadham College, Oxford. At university he was a popular figure, almost a dandy, given to wearing top hats. Few of his contemporaries in the late Twenties would have forecast his later eminence as historian and biographer.

During the Second World War he served in the Royal Artillery and the Intelligence Corps, where he ended with the rank of major. One of his postings was to Iceland, where apology was made for his accommodation. "All I need," replied Magnus with proper practicality, "is my own bedroom and my own bathroom".

He became head of the university's department of metallurgy and materials technology in 1966 after a distinguished career in the field of materials science.

He was the United Kingdom representative in exchanges with the United States on plutonium and with France and Euratom on nuclear materials.

Malcolm Burnham was educated at Whitgift School and King's College, London, and was awarded his PhD by the University of Birmingham after working at the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough.

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Advertisement for Just Brazils. You give 'em because you love 'em. Includes an image of a man and a woman.

Advertisement for RAF Cranwell graduations. Lists names of graduates and their respective ranks and units.

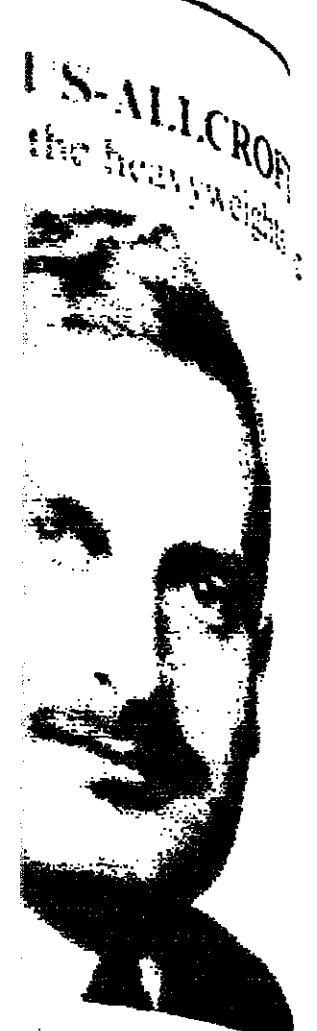
Advertisement for Royal College of General Practitioners. Lists names of members and their addresses.

Advertisement for Jilda Smith. A short biography and a list of her film credits.

Large vertical advertisement for Foyles Art Gallery. Features the name 'Gree' and lists various art pieces and artists.



ANNOUNCEMENTS & PERSONAL



For the Christmas season we have a special... BIRTHS... BALOGH... BEVAN... BRIMAN... DAVIES... MARRIAGES... DEATHS...

BRIMETT - On December 19th, 1988... BALOGH - On December 17th 1988... BEVAN - On December 20th, 1988... BRIMAN - On November 8th to Caroline... DAVIES - On December 18th, to Julia... MARRIAGES - On December 18th 1988... DEATHS - On December 20th 1988...

MARRIAGES - On December 18th 1988... DEATHS - On December 20th 1988... BRIMETT - On December 19th, 1988... BALOGH - On December 17th 1988... BEVAN - On December 20th, 1988... BRIMAN - On November 8th to Caroline... DAVIES - On December 18th, to Julia... MARRIAGES - On December 18th 1988... DEATHS - On December 20th 1988...

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Christie's gift to college

By Sarah Jane Checkland, Art Market Correspondent... Christie's are making a sizeable financial gift - understood to be in the region of £250,000 - to the Royal Holloway and Bedford College at Egham, Surrey... The news comes as the college, in financial straits due to education cuts, has been considering selling part of its Victorian painting collection as an emergency measure to raise cash...

Latest estates

- Mr Francis Leslie Watson, OBE, of South Grove, London N6, the author who caused a sensation in 1986 by revealing that the royal physician, Lord Dawson, had ended King George V's life prematurely, left £297,438 net... Mr Dennis Raymond Boulton, of Long Ditton, Surrey £54,958... Mr Stephen Kavanagh, of Warham, Horsham, West Sussex £308,193...

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# THE ARTS

David Robinson is charmed by rock star Michael Jackson's celebration of his own mythology

## Sweet smile of success



Pals or peers? Michael Jackson talks to Brandon Adams (left) and Sean Lennon

**E**ven if the Michael Jackson phenomenon is in large part a synthetic product, manufactured out of publicity and promotion, hype and voluntary hysteria, there is at the centre of it an entertainer of exceptional gifts. He is an eccentric dancer without equal, and in *Moonwalker* shows that his vocal skills can extend to interpreting a Beatles number, "Come Together", with creditable originality.

The most interesting part of the film is a film montage of youthful appearances that show these skills already in the making. They also demonstrate the evolution from ebullient black song-and-dance kid to the current androgynic, transsexual icon.

Years of remaking (some of it the plastic surgery required after his face was severely burned) have given Jackson features that are neither black nor white in ethnic character, and certainly more feminine than male elderly British fans might enjoy his resemblance to the young Margaret Lockwood.

The erotic gestures which generate cinematic excitement in his massed fans, repeated with such unvarying regularity that they have a robotic, mechanical character, are also sexually equivocal.

He gives quick narcissistic caresses to his crotch, and shoots out his pelvis in violent convulsions that threaten to knock out his teeth. At other moments he prances across the stage in his high-heeled boots like a Bluebell girl, and coquishly, provocatively slips his shirt off the right shoulder.

**CINEMA**  
**Moonwalker (PG)**  
Warrner Leicester Square,  
Cannons Haymarket,  
Shaftesbury Avenue,  
Oxford Street

**La Bohème (U)**  
Barbican, Chelsea Cinema

He is from all accounts an eccentric and intelligent man, and apparently played as big a part in formulating *Moonwalker* as he has in creating the persona. Colin Chilvers, the special effects wizard who directed an episode of the film, is quoted as saying, "He's close to a genius in knowing what his public wants to see".

*Moonwalker* is constructed on the pop video principle, in short segments, with non-stop visual stimuli and only the most basic narrative thread, calculated to the shortest attention span.

There are opening and closing sequences of Jackson performing at a packed Madison Square Garden: a hi-tech, multi-image montage of retrospective performances; a *Bugsy Malone*-style parody of the star's video *Bad* played by under-10s; a chase through a studio lot in which Jackson variously metamor-

phoses into a racing car and an animated clay rabbit; a space wars sequence in which he becomes an armoured robot to save three little kids from the villain, an extra-terrestrial drug pusher (the film is nothing if not moral).

The more mature sort of viewer who hopes for narrative or thematic continuity could find *Moonwalker* baffling. By any standards it is confused and kitschy (writing about the film, the director Jerry Kramer revealingly explains how particular Jackson performances "strongly impacted me" or "blew me away").

It is curious all the same as an exercise in myth making. The early concert sequences are startlingly intercut with documentary fragments of personalities evidently offered as Michael Jackson's peers: Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, John F. Kennedy, Lech Walesa among them.

In the space wars sequence, Michael, as defender of little children, becomes a fairy figure, somewhere between Peter Pan and Mary Poppins - or perhaps Jesus in a remarkable scene the children yearn for his Second Coming, which happens (like a lot of his screen manifestations) in a burst of white celestial light. He gets away with these outrages of self-promotion - as well as his narrow limits as dialogue actor - with the sweetest, most open and disarming smile in show business.

The French producer of *La Bohème*, Daniel Toscani du Plantier, apparently tried to persuade Woody Allen to direct the filmed opera. When this interesting

enterprise failed, he persuaded the veteran Italian director Luigi Comencini to undertake it.

In his early career Comencini flirted with neo-realism. Later he moved between calculated commercial hits like *Bread and Love* and sentimental juvenile melodramas, such as *Misunderstood* and *A Boy of Calabria*.

None of this would seem likely preparation for *La Bohème*; and in fact Comencini has come up with a remarkably pedestrian production, both in staging and performance. The production is moreover full of perverse miscalculations.

**C**omencini up-dates the story to 1910, making the painter Marcello a proto-Fortisist and laboriously introducing a veteran car into the studio set. The dramatic balance is bizarrely altered by making Mimì the seducer.

The film introduces an unnecessary and mute new suitor for Musetta. Oddest of all, when Jose Carreras fell ill after recording the sound track, Comencini forfeited the chance to use an actor of suitable looks, and employed another star singer, Luca Canonici, to mime the part.

On the credit side in this peculiar exercise is the performance of the black American singer Barbara Hendricks, whose responsive performance offsets the disadvantage of looking far too blooming and beautiful to be dying of consumption.

## Self-assured and stultifyingly dull

### TELEVISION

Some boast of never having read a chapter of *A Dance To The Music Of Time*, some of never having visited America. Until last night it was my proud claim that I had never seen a single episode of *Rampole of The Bailey* (Thames).

Perhaps it was the wrong episode to pick as an introduction, but its resemblance to a stately steam engine pulling trucks plump with plum puddings seemed too self-assured to be a freak.

An acid-test of television drama of any description is what results when the viewer glances out of the window, picks up a newspaper or becomes absorbed in a bothersome hang-nail. In the case of *Rampole*, the answer is "not a great deal".

John Mortimer's helpfully explanatory script fills the soundtrack as squarely as any radio play, and the utter stylelessness of the direction and camera-work conspires to make the screen a sort of ornamental frieze.

It may have been useful to see the suspicious pallor of Leslie Phillips as the alleged old Africa hand (Hilda's unsmug old flame), but since he gave himself away with his brags of hunting tigers in Kenya, the eye did not come into the reckoning. But it was chiefly in the character of the protagonist - his unconvincing good-heartedness, his spray-on

acerbity - that the thing fell apart.

Leo McKern is a superb actor who has tumbled on what by his standards must be seen as a sincere. His character's love of poetry is a Rotarian's reflex that goes well with the sub-Dickensian names of the minor characters.

*Dispatches* (Channel 4) provided a hard-nosed eye-opener on China's treatment of Tibet - the word "treatment" to be read in the sense that a psychopath skinhead might use it. Genocide, iconoclasm, apartheid, compulsory abortions and sterilization: all this has been going on for around 30 years, with little hard evidence leaking to the outside world.

Resourcefully and, one must say, courageously, the reporter Yanya Kewley roamed the countryside, interviewing some of the victims of "Sinification". Catalogues of misery are a common diet of television documentaries, but few carry such a freight of sinister gloom, let alone coupled with the excitement of clandestine filming.

Natural resources aside, why do the Chinese want Tibet? Its location in the heart of Asia and its height above sea level make it a natural site for nuclear missile bases. Brave talk from exiles promising guerrilla action seems decidedly quixotic.

Martin Cropper

Hilary Finch meets soprano Barbara Hendricks, who sings the role of Mimì in the new film of *La Bohème*, reviewed above

## A need to serve

When Barbara Hendricks was asked to play the *Divina* in the Benicx film of that name, seven years ago, she turned it down flat. She felt that her own identity as an operatic soprano was not yet well enough established to prevent her having to spend the rest of her life fighting off the image. When, six years later, she was offered Mimì in a new film of *La Bohème*, she leapt at the idea.

Daniel Toscani du Plantier, head of Erato Records, had posed the question: "And I was very impressed by why he wanted me to do it. He said I had the ability to convey a certain sincerity of character. I was very touched, because usually people in his sort of position know absolutely nothing of those things..."

She approached the project simply as an adventure; but soon found herself tangled in the web of compromises inevitable in serving two masters: in merging the pre-recorded soundtrack conducted by James Conlon with the cinematic image requirements of director Luigi Comencini. Comencini, who had himself been studying conscientiously with the earphones on for three months, insisted for instance that the intimate conversations should not be yelled out forstissimo. No problem. Puccini's own musical stage-management looked after that.

But, for the Act One duet, Comencini wanted to lock inside the mind of Rodolfo and project Mimì as a madonna-figure in a halo of fairy lights. Fair enough as a comment on Rodolfo's own view of life and love, and fair enough too, Hendricks thought, as a point of reference for that! The fairy lights stayed; Hendricks had lost the first round.

Act Three, though, was her victory. In the lovers' encounter in the cold light of a February morning, Comencini wanted a series of flashbacks to Mimì's earlier life. "I told him, 'Just do me a favour: just put the camera on and let me sing the aria.'" Match point to Hendricks.

Both Comencini and Hendricks, though, agreed throughout on what made Mimì the woman she was. They both saw her as the wooper, not the wooed, the protagonist supreme. Comencini's camera watches her embroidering in her apartment, listening to the frolics of Rodolfo and his companions down below, even before she appears at his door. "She knows who lives where in that building; she's not a dimwit. She didn't go to the old lady downstairs for a candle: she knocked on Rodolfo's door. Now that's a woman who's very positive about her life!"

Not unlike Hendricks herself. She gave up years of training in science and mathematics to go to the Juilliard and study singing with the great Russian soprano, Jennie Tourel. Someone had heard Hendricks singing at a church concert in Arkansas, where she was brought up as the daughter of a Methodist minister; and she was invited to the Aspen Music Summer School. "I'd planned to go to Vermillion, South Dakota that summer to study Complex Ion Substitution..."

The change of direction came from a conviction that music was to be her calling. It was a decision made out without the agonizing of one brought up in the Deep South Protestant work ethic. Should she be doing something as frivolous as singing, when she could have been a doctor?



No dimwit: Barbara Hendricks

Tourel pointed her to Gorky's book on Chaliapin, in which the *leitmotiv* of the great singer's work was revealed as "the struggle against the sham glitter that eclipses the inner light; the complexity that kills simplicity; the vulgar external that diminishes the grandeur". Hendricks has the words by heart.

For her they fitted well with the parable of the talents. Her voice was "like being given money to invest. If you don't make it grow, it's somehow a crime. I began to see that art is very necessary to human life, and to serve it is something quite noble."

Her highly developed need to serve was rewarded eventually by an invitation from the High Commissioner for Refugees at the United Nations, to be one of their Ambassadors of Goodwill. Last spring, Hendricks went with a video crew to a refugee camp for Vietnamese boat people, on a small island off Kuala Lumpur. There she interviewed, gathered information, noted weak points in administration.

The words start to tumble over each other. "People shouldn't worry. They don't all want to come and live next door. The important thing is not to think of ours as the ideal way to live: it's essential to help in a way which allows people to retain their dignity and their culture. And we mustn't feel guilty that we in the West are responsible. But we are responsible if we allow such a situation to continue..."

She has been invited to Namibia next year, and in March she will give a concert with Shlomo Mintz in Tokyo for Unesco's campaign on illiteracy in Asia. There are the usual quota of recitals to fit in - all with solo pianists such as Schiff, Lupu, Alexeev ("I like confrontation: accompanists tend to obey what you tell them to do").

There is Susanna at the Met and La Scala, Pamina in Orange, and Gilda at the Bolshoi. And Hendricks is eager for her first *bel canto* role, in *Don Pasquale* during the Venice Carnival.

She would love to be asked to do some Rossini, and is unusually well placed for advice on repertoire. Joan Sutherland just happens to live up the hill from her, above Lausanne. "We share the same dentist, and he's going to get us together..."

La Bohème, an Electric Pictures release, opens in London on Boxing Day at the Barbican Cinema for a four week run. On December 27 it opens at both the Chelsea Cinema in Kings Road, and the Edinburgh Film House, Lothian Road.

## Magnificent Sophocles

### THEATRE

**Electra**  
The Pit

When John Barton directed Euripides's *Electra* in the RSC's *Greeks* cycle, he brought on the heroine and her brother dressed like members of the Baader-Meinhof gang. This would not do for Sophocles's version: but even in his hands it remains a piercing fable on the sources of terrorism. A long history of injustice and oppression gives birth to a savage reprisal that wipes out the original issues of right and wrong.

In this magnificent production, Deborah Warner indulges in no topical underlinings, but it brings emotions and events into an appalling close-up that prompts inescapable analogies with Ireland and Israel's occupied territories. It makes you feel the long years of waiting; and it makes you see the hideous futility of the outcome.

Like all this director's work, it is staged with the utmost austerity. No music; and a set (by Hildegard Bechtler) as bare as a slaughterhouse yard, with a sliding metal door to the palace and a central trench to catch the blood.

Among other things, *Electra* is an account of a smoothly conducted terrorist operation; and Warner sets that in motion from the opening sound of a pebble tossed onto the flagstones, followed by the stealthy arrival of Orestes's tutor to reconnoitre the ground. Conversing in hushed voices, and treating the explanatory opening speech as a blindfolded ceremony, it is clear that the pair have rehearsed their attack down to the last detail before they ever left Phocis; and when *Electra* and the chorus take over the stage, you are always aware of the two conspirators working away behind the scenes.

With *Electra*, the rhythm switches from action to suffering.

**School for Clowns**  
Lilian Baylis

The title of this merry Christmas show for children could be off-putting for those inclined to relate it to the gibbering zany whose antics presumably make a visit to the circus such a trial. The mere notion of a school for them chills the blood.

Nor does the news that the play is by a Danzig-born satirical cartoonist (F.K. Waechter) instantly allay fears; it shifts them into another area, that of continental earnestness.

However, the participation of Ken Campbell as translator and Martin Duncan as director inspires a certain confidence, and the show itself swiftly reveals a boisterous charm, rather as though four of Lord Snooty's pals had been kidnapped by the mortar-boarded Mr Quelch for an eccentric end-of-term class.

Three of the pupils hurry down to the stage through the auditorium: Weazel (Ian Bartholomew) in whiteface and Eton collar; Puff in sailor boy suit (Stephen Beagley) with his fond-

Fiona Shaw is first seen pushing open the palace door with her head: a ragged, half-naked spectre whose very gender is obliterated by grief. Shaw takes a big risk in pushing the character's unrelenting distress into a half-crazed desperation; but she forestalls any sense of monotony by wild, irrepressible body-language, seemingly tugged up from the gut, in an inexhaustible flood of self-lacerating, accusing, and murderous gesture.

The five-strong chorus, separately but not recognizably characterized, are the weakest element in the show. The surrounding figures, by contrast, match the force of the principals. You expect a strong Clytemnestra, which Natasha Furry supplies in a performance of almost Japanese arrogance. Less expected is the power of Susan Colver's Chrysothemis, no feeble little sister, but an antagonist who puts the case for submission as passionately as *Electra*'s demand for vengeance.

Orestes (Piers Ibbotson) has an even stronger companion in Sylvester Morand's Tutor, who still exerts his old authority, and by far the most expressive voice in the company. There is a marvellous moment with Orestes and *Electra* and half the audience in tears at their long-awaited reunion; momentarily the plot is forgotten until Morand barks at the two "children" like a drill sergeant and recalls them to their gruesome task.

Clytemnestra dies with a crash against the metal doors. Gordon Case's Aegisthus then learns his fate and inquires: "If it's right, why not do it outside?" He has dignity; the bloodstained avengers, shouting him down and sarcastically driving him into the slaughterhouse, have none. Sophocles ends the play by declaring that justice has been done. Here, it ends on an ominous question mark.

Irving Wardle

DONALD COOPER



Tearful reunion: Fiona Shaw (*Electra*) and Piers Ibbotson (*Orestes*)

## Lessons in merry-making

ness for the naughtier words of kindergarten; Fimple the lady clown (Linda Dobell), good natured, rather flirty with the audience.

They are joined on stage by Pearce Quigley who plays Dripps, tall, shock-haired, prone to profound hysteria and soft-hearted almost to the verge of soporific, though kept on the right side of the verge by the angular crispness of his movements.

With a clap of thunder and a dose of green light, the curtains on an inner stage drop away to reveal the truly bizarre figure of Bob Gooty's Professor.

Grutesquely myopic, in essence

a wild caricature of a schoolboy grown big, he barks out the subjects of the day's clowning and the four set to it, taking on the roles of clouds, fish, walls, creepy trees, hunky pianos and of other fantastic fast-changing objects, while also plotting mutiny against the tyrant.

The playing is inventive, comic and audience-friendly. When we are divided into four groups to rouse Sir from his sleeping sickness by laughing, moaning, rasping and jumping, the rumpus must have jerked Petruska out of his gloomy hole in Sadler's Wells next door.

Jeremy Kingston

BARBARA HENDRICKS  
LUIGI COMENCINI  
PUCCINI'S  
**LA BOHÈME**  
LUCA CANONICI  
JOSE CARRERAS  
CO-DIRECTED BY  
DANIEL TOSCANI DU PLANTIER

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# Monk of gaudy habits

GLYN BOYD HARTÉ

**Fiona MacCarthy on the devout and the dissolute for God's sake**

**CANCEL ALL OUR VOWS**

By Brocard Sewell  
Aylesford Press, £9.95

Brother Joseph Gardner was the Founder and Superior of the Servants of Christ the King, a religious fraternity in Surrey. He was also the entrepreneur in Frensham Circus, which was fairly famous in the 1930s. The performers in this circus were the mentally defective boys in Brother Joseph's care.

Brother Joseph was the ring master. The sight of Brother Joseph in his habit and top hat standing in the sawdust at the centre of the ring directing the proceedings with his ceremonial whip was one of the minor wonders of its period, and a keen appreciation of monastic schizophrenia runs through Brocard Sewell's very interesting book.

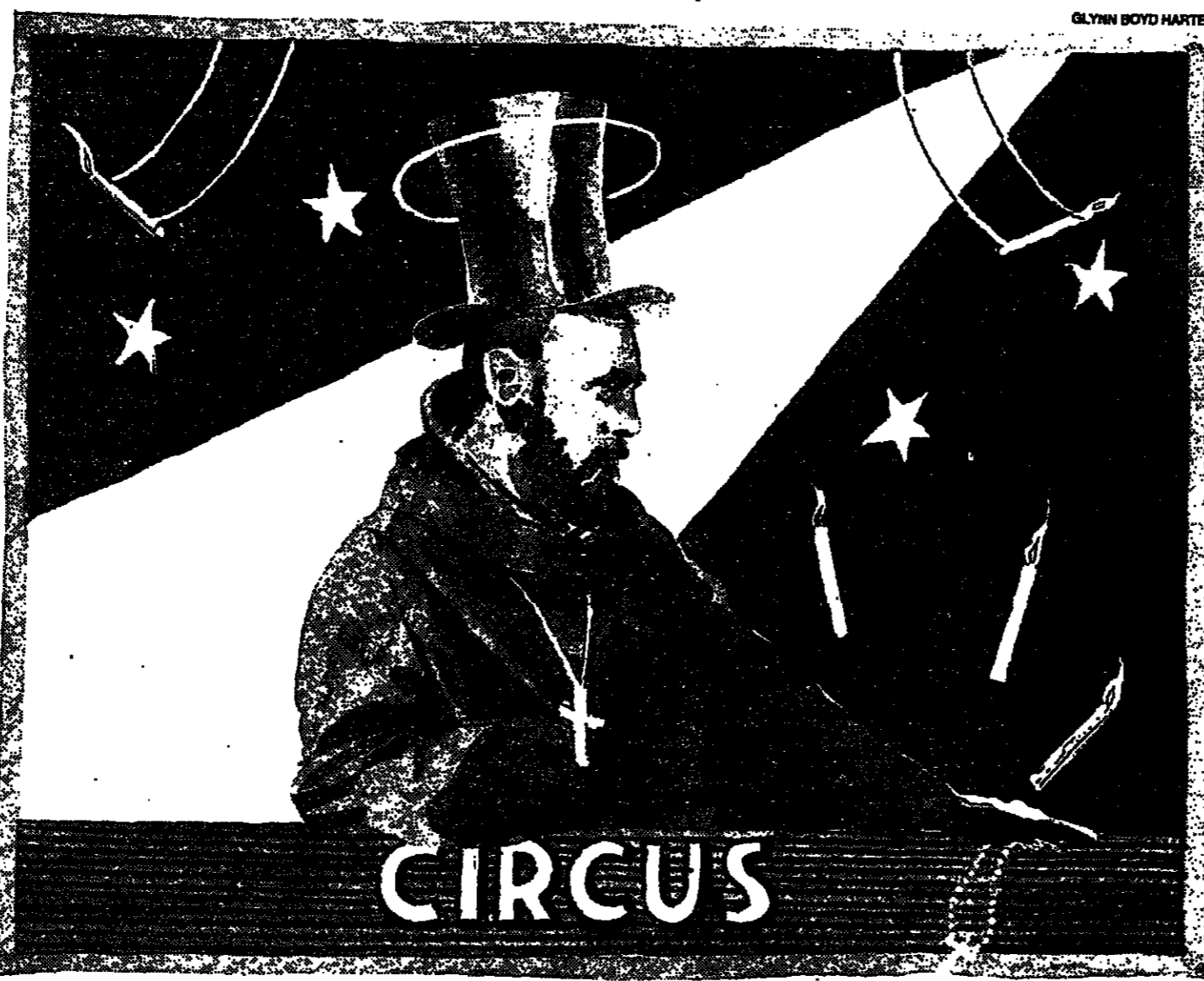
Joseph Gardner was an oddity. He stands high in the long line of peculiar ecclesiastics rescued from oblivion by Father Brocard Sewell, himself a Carmelite priest and a biographer of rare comic sense and acumen. Brother Joseph's story is so strange it is compulsive: I read the book through twice (it is a short book) without stopping. It gives one the feeling that a true eccentric has more chance of fulfilment in a religious framework than in the world outside.

Brother Joseph started life at the low end of the C. of E.: his family worshipped at the lowest church in Reading. He ended it a Catholic. Nothing odd in that. Upward mobility of worship is a commonplace. What was not so usual was the heightening of drama as he took the only road he knew to stardom, changing his name successively from plain Reg Gardner to Reginald Gardner with the meaningful apostrophe to Brother Joseph of the Holy Family. It transpired that as a boy he had indeed once been an actor, a kind of strolling player. (His stage name was Rex Lynn Linton and his mother chaperoned him.) Brother Joseph was an actor *manqué* all his life.

In his Anglo-Catholic incarnation he produced, and of course starred in, his own Passion Play at Staithes. Staithes was a primitive fishing village in Yorkshire. Laura Knight, who lived there, described it as "A Wildified Place". Father Joseph's Passion Play, with supporting cast of fishermen, was in theory ridiculous, attempting the impossible. But one of the audience remembered it years later as the nearest to the Passion he had ever seen; and this seems quite convincing, for Brother Joseph had that mesmeric quality, an indefinable aura of risk which he shares with several other Sewell subjects. Perhaps it is the definition of a Sewell subject. Montague Summers, specialist in demonology; Frederick Rolfe, alias Baron Corvo, author of *Chronicles of the House of Burgin*; Canon John Gray, once the Dominican to Oscar. They are edge-of-the-seat characters, spectator sport extraordinary, poised precariously between the devout and dissolute.

The bare interior of the Mission Room at Staithes had been good at all to Brother Joseph, who was by this time well on the way to the Huxleyan principle of *le lace pour Dieu*. Brocard Sewell has a feeling for taste and tastelessness and the point at which the one lurches over to the other, and describes in exact detail how the chapel was decked out in red and gold, Brother Joseph's favourite colours: "Candles multiplied as if by magic; soon there were 12 on the altar, six on each side of the altar cross, so that there seemed to be imminent danger of a conflagration. The plaster saints filled every niche and corner and at service time incense arose in clouds."

The chapel or the brothel? Not since Peter Anson has anyone attempted a serious analysis of the



Anglo-Catholic decorative impulses, or indeed got far towards relating upsurges of faith to the religious *mis-en-scène*. Brother Joseph had many traits of the fanatic. Some were endearing, like the way he knocked his jaw back into place when it got stuck in the vehemence of preaching. Some were self-destructive and alarming.

Once in Staithes as he was preaching on the quay some small boys began tormenting him. He turned round and belaboured them with the cross he carried, his tall wooden preaching cross painted in red and gold. Their mothers, the fishwives, came rushing out to rescue them. Brother Joseph's years of glory in Yorkshire were now over, and the Popish furnishings were carted from the chapel. The Servants of Christ the King then travelled south.

The ease with which the religious can negotiate to slip over from one order to another never ceases to astonish. It is a tragicomic ever-hopeful operation, coming poignantly close to the secular remarriage, and involving a quite literal exchange of habits: off with the old man, on with the new. The cancelling of vows was breath of life to anyone as easily

bored as Brother Joseph. He served under three in his short lifetime, and it was at Frensham he became a Roman Catholic, zooming off to London to start up the formalities in his pride and joy, his bright red sports car. Brother Joseph drove it fast, wearing his grey habit and an impressive pair of leather gauntlets.

What effect did the change of religious allegiance have upon his charges, the 20 or 30 feeble-minded boys in the house of the Servants of Christ the King at Frensham? Very little, one surmises. The changeover from Mass in English to Mass in Latin seems to have passed them by; it was, after all, all Greek to them, as Brocard Sewell, who has tart turns of phrase, reminds us. And in any case the ritual itself has its own language, the language of poetry and symbolism.

The unstable Brother Joseph, master of the volte-face, was always in the market for a revelation, and the idea of the circus as a means of training the boys in his care was a sudden inspiration interpreted with genius. A CIRCUS! It seemed to have everything for everyone. The most promising of the boys could be clowns, acrobats, trapeze artists. Even the least competent

could take some minor part in it, helping to train and groom performing dogs and ponies. As well as being ringmaster, Brother Joseph provided the mighty *pièce de résistance*, a conjuring act called "The Gardens of Arabia", summoning great clouds of coloured flowers from the heavens which carpeted over the sawdust in the ring.

This is a beautiful oddball of a book, fit for the Christmas stocking of a Norman St John-Stevens. It shows life as the cabaret, the circus as a metaphor for people a bit beyond the pale. Colin Wilson, arch-commissioner of the outsider, has I think correctly defined Brocard Sewell himself as an "outsider" in the 20th-century cultural tradition of Camus or Jack Kerouac, and argued that it is his own qualities of oddity that give him such a feeling for intransigence in others. In an age of banal worship of the major and the mainstream one feels grateful for this positive obsession with the minor. The issues raised by Brother Joseph and his circus are not so much administrative, medical, political, as to do with satisfying one's own small creative urges and searching out one's own niche within society. The ringmaster saw it as a question of salvation of each individual soul.

# Mountain greenery

Ruth Stingo

**ALPINE GARDENING**

By Roy Elliott

Alpine Garden Society, £12.50

Childhood past, snow always seemed to me rather a waste of time, that far-too-cold for comfort stuff that stops you looking at the plants beneath. It has been good, therefore, to be reminded of its positive uses, as a protective blanket under which the extraordinary range of alpine plants, so curiously and cleverly adapted to their hostile environment, escape the harsher blasts of winter.

Once you have seen an alpine display at a flower show, and have marvelled at the often minute plants cherished to a state of breathtaking perfection, each leaf and petal burnished, each particle of gravel in position, you know you are in the company of real enthusiasts. Not only do they grow their treasures supremely well, they also spend their holidays taking impossibly angled photographs of them in their natural habitat, and while away their spare time in painting their portraits. Much of this madness-tinged enthusiasm comes across in Roy Elliott's *Alpine Gardening*. It has you scheming almost from the first page, wondering how you too can manage a few of these very special plants.

What he describes is a far cry from the usual suburban rockery; what makes it so particularly interesting is his approach. Plants are not the garden's furnishing, they are the stars, whose temperaments and whims must be understood and catered for. The garden is their stage. Unlike some of the earliest enthusiasts who created their own mini-Alps, Roy Elliott does not see the need for such verisimilitude - fortunately, since some of the best flourish in horrendous places. In the wild such plants survive because they are the best adapted to hostile conditions. Eliminate competition and they often show themselves more accommodating.

Roy Elliott has a lifetime's experience of growing alpine and a provocatively broad idea of what we need to do more than keep off the plant. Although loosely cast in a

seasonal framework, this does little more than encourage him to turn aside to explore other things: what it is that gives good alpines their character, how they got their names, how to make containers to grow them in. There are lots of good stories: I had met the one about Charlemagne decreeing that houseleeks should be grown on house roofs as protection against lightning, but hadn't thought it could be the juicy leaves that would actually make them effective. And anyone who has pressed her own flowers would warm to the account of the *Leucis* (those difficult but attractive daisies) which was successfully revived after spending two years between the pages of someone's herbarium. Alpines are indeed tough, as well as beautiful.

A total contrast is provided by reading another Alpine Garden Society publication, *Addresses* by G.F. Smith and D.E. Lowe, a book for the hooked enthusiast who really wants to get down to his subject. This is a monograph on those delightful cushion plants whose major disadvantages is their name (the not commonly known English alternative is rock jasmine). Written very much with the gardener in mind, it is a meaty mix of hard fact on appearance, distribution, taxonomy, and recognition, together with unusually thorough practical suggestions about cultivation, gleaned from the considerable combined experience of members of the Alpine Garden Society. Lists of the species that have more or less or completely disappeared from cultivation (Americans ones as well as the more elusive Asian species) show how tenuous a hold some have in our gardens. We need to do more than keep off the piste to protect our plants.

NEW BOOKS

- The Literary Editor's selection of silly titles of the year:
- Automatic Pleasures, The History of the Coin Machine*, by Nic Costa (Kevin Francis Publishing Ltd, £16.95)
  - Belly Dancing for Health & Relaxation*, by T. Hobin (Duckworth, £2.50)
  - Caddy Spoons, A Guide*, by John Norris (John Murray, £12.50)
  - Conversations with Lord Byron on Perversion 183 Years After His Lordship's Death*, by Amanda Franks (Abacus, £3.99)
  - Croquet Airport, The Australian Connection*, by Douglas Cuest (Sutton Leisure, £3.50)
  - Great Boredom of the World*, by Emmett Murphy (Quartet, £12.50)
  - Labour of Love, The Story of the World's First Surrogate Grandmother*, by Sue Reid (The Bodley Head, £6.95)
  - Man Suffocated by Potatoes*, by William A. Marsano (Futura, £2.99)
  - Monarch of All I Survey, Bechuanaland Diaries 1929-37*, by Sir Charles Rey (James Currey, £19.95)
  - Paws Across London*, a guide for dog-walkers and others, by Bruce Fogie (Michael Joseph, £10.95)
  - Psychotic Reactions and Carburator (sic, it's American) Dung*, by Lester Bangs (Heinemann, £9.95)
  - The Art of Lego*, edited by Ken Baynes (Clwyd County Council, £5.95)
  - The Collector's Book of Telephone Cards, 1986-1989*, by S.E.R. Hiscocks (Dr Hiscocks, PO Box 77, Woking, £4.50)
  - East Your Own Pet Cookbook*, by Russell Jones (Grub Street, £4.50)
  - The History of Savory and Vitamin C*, by Kenneth J. Carpenter (Cambridge, £9.95)
  - The Horse in Winter*, by Susan McBane (Methuen, £10.95)
  - The Joy of Socks*, by Maggie Drummond (Robson, £4.95)
  - The Sacred Virgin & the Holy Whore*, by A. Harris (Sphere, £3.50)
  - Why Not Eat Insects?*, by Vincent Hot (Natural History, £3.95)
  - Wogan on Wogan*, by Terry Wogan (Penguin, £2.99)

# Greek nous

Peter Jones

**THE REVOLUTIONS OF WISDOM**  
By G.E.R. Lloyd  
California, \$45

The ancient Greek Erasistratus, claiming birds emitted invisible effluvia, kept a bird in a cage for a few days and then weighed the bird and its visible excreta. He announced a dramatic weight-loss. "Hippocrates" asserted that all diseases in men are caused by bile and phlegm. For patients suffering from fever, Herodotus prescribed runs, wrestling, and steam baths. Caelius recommended treating madness by having the patient read aloud from texts riddled with errors to keep him alert (at last! A use for the blessed National Curriculum).

So much, one may say, for the Greek scientific achievement. But it is all too easy to abuse the ancient Greeks for not doing so-and-so, when they were busy inventing democracy, history, philosophy, the communications industry (rhetoric), and tragedy, and altering our whole conception of languages, mathematics, and, yes, the sciences as well. We should be grateful Greeks did not turn their attention elsewhere: only very few ages *deserve* the Sony Walkman and Radio 1 and book journalism and satellite television.

Geoffrey Lloyd's purpose is to ask some fundamental questions about this controversial area of Greek scientific achievement. Is it scientific? Did it break new ground? Did its claims measure up to its achievement? His method is to make a number of "case-studies" from early 6th-century cosmology to the 2nd-century AD physician Galen and astronomer-mathematician Ptolemy, and draw up a

balance-sheet of profit and loss, advance and retreat. He concentrates particularly on "Hippocratic" medicine, which is notable for its combinations of extremes - dogmatic confidence in ludicrous analyses on one hand, extreme doubt and admission of failure on the other - and this, in a sense, acts as the keynote of Lloyd's thesis.

The point about the Greek scientific achievement is that, whatever its tangible results, it located the discussion of the issues with which it dealt in the public arena, and offered them up for public debate in rational, not supernatural and mystical, terms. True, results can seem disappointing: Greeks did not generally experiment or observe with our dedication and precision, or develop technology in the way we feel they might have done; but it is easy for us, with our massively sophisticated understanding of the physical world, to make such *post eventum* judgements. What men like Aristotle and Archimedes did achieve, through sheer power of abstract intellectual analysis - a quality categorically denied by our educational mistresses today - is simply miraculous.

Lloyd has produced a formidable book: nearly 500 pages, (84 of them bibliography), and a text that makes you think up and down on a massive groundswell of footnotes, like seaweed on a spring tide. But this is the secret of its readability. The main argument, articulated with enviable lucidity, stays in the text, the fascinating scholarly *minutiae* are explored in the notes. It is a mastery achievement. But whether his deconstructed colleagues at King's, Cambridge think so remains to be seen. Damn it, the blighter actually has the temerity to reach *conclusions*. Pass the wine-style health drink, Wilkinson, and we'll throw some over him.

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London WC2

# Faceless father of Tintin

Martin Spence

**HERGÉ**  
By Thierry Smolderen & Pierre Starck  
Casterman, £13.25



Hergé's father was illegitimate. Hergé himself never wanted a name and invented his own by reversing his initials, Georges Rémi. Nothing is known of his life before he started work as a clerk in the Brussels newspaper office of his Svengali, Wallex, a Catholic priest who kept a signed photograph of Mussolini above his desk. He divorced his first wife for a younger woman after 30 years, and his first biographers have had the co-operation of both. His only child, Tintin, was born aged 14 in 1929. Fasten your seatbelts for a spicy life. Instead, it's like looking at lantern slides where all the slides are anecdotes. Is the tomb being guarded or was it empty in the first place?

Sex is hardly mentioned. Tintin's father was thought an unsuitable match for his first girl, Milou, who shared the name of Tintin's dog, so he married twice into the office family to women who were sisters to him rather than lovers. Marriage was both an

outlet and an irritation, just like the boils that troubled Hergé all his life. He used his great wealth only to indulge a passion for fast cars and modern art. Politics were simply a means to

art. As Tintin bounds through Soviet Russia, the Sino-Japanese War, the Second and Cold Wars, ducking bullets from Left and Right, so Hergé. Treating his beloved tribes - colleagues, Red Indians, Scouts, the Belgian royalty - as an extended family, he was initially unprepared to accept the political implications of his loyalties. Modest, anonymous, impersonal, and calm, Hergé's life, despite this expert first biography, remains as blank as Tintin's face; his name, like Tintin's, a transparent onomatopoeia. Talking to Hergé was like talking to an angel, friends recall (there are no enemies). His life, like *Tintin in Tibet*, was a pilgrimage without a shrine. In his expedition to the high Himalayas against all odds, the secret of life is discovered: the virgin snow, the mystic monk, the friend feared dead and found alive; above all, the Snowman himself - not abominable after all, but loving, peaceful, and with a human heart.

# Bland System analysis

Irving Wardle

**STANISLAVSKY**  
By Jean Benedetti  
Methuen, £16.95

The last full-length English study of Stanislavsky was David Magarshak's 1950 biography: an affectionate and highly readable book which, even in its own time, left much of the story still to be told. As a theatrical all-rounder, and a linguist with access to the copious outpourings of the Stanislavsky industry, Jean Benedetti is well placed to tell it. His declared aim is to restore the Moscow Art Theatre to the context of its times, and to let his informants speak for themselves. The result strikes me as scrupulously fair and colourless. This is not a book to win Stanislavsky any new friends.

In the pre-Revolutionary first half of the story readers would be better off with Magarshak, whose account of the transformation of Konstantin Alekseevich from gifted amateur into the "Michelangelo" of the Russian stage is rich in personal and theatrical detail seldom to be found in Benedetti, whose churlishness in describing productions is exceeded only by his space-wasting quotations from eye-witnesses.

Where his narrative does score is in planting the seeds for what is to follow: particularly in Stanislavsky's long-term relationships

with his greatest pupil, Meierhold, and his partner, Nemirovich-Danchenko. The quarrel that ultimately split the MAT in two is traced back to the partners' first plans for the company and Nemirovich's hidden agenda to assume sole command. This internal drama - between a textual autocrat and an actor-director of genius - is of no less importance to posterity than the work it produced. Benedetti recounts it even-handedly, and with doubly damning effect: a huge gap

opens up between a meanly ambitious egoist and an idealistic giant.

If idealism was a mark of the class enemy in 1917, Stanislavsky lived it down: submitting without complaint to the expropriation of his factories and eviction from his house, and welcoming the Revolution as an ardent Tolstoyan. Luck also came to his aid when, after years of ideological sniping from RAPP and Proletcult zealots, Zhdanov proclaimed the doctrine of Socialist Realism, thus reclaiming the anachronistically bourgeois MAT as an embodiment of the party line. Benedetti is at his best in relating his iconically non-political hero to the surrounding political snake-pit.

He is less successful in recodifying the System to which Stanislavsky devoted his last 30 years. Benedetti offers no opinion on whether the System liberates or paralyzes the performer. But he does quote a story worth pondering of Stanislavsky reaching a suicidal impasse in the role of Pushkin's Salieri, and deciding to exchange his hated white breeches for a black pair: after which, "I felt I had been set free... I don't understand a thing."

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INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Review section on Saturday by a preview of the week ahead. Items should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

BOOKING KEY
★ Seats available
★ Returns only
(†) Access for disabled

THEATRE LONDON

★ CANDICE: Christmas treat: Leonard Bernstein's semi-packed musical, part opera, part Broadway, with Mariel Beaudet, Marilyn Hill Smith, Nicolaas Grace.
★ THE WIZARD OF OZ: New cast revive last year's Christmas treat. Barbican Theatre, Barbican Centre, EC2 (01-638 8891). Tubas: Tomorrow 7.30-10pm; Tues-Thurs and Sat 2-4.30pm; Fri 2-11pm, Jan 14 (†)

★ THE WIZARD OF OZ: Return of Sylvester McCoy's children's adventure through a menagerie of Heath Robinson automata. Lyric Studio Theatre, King St, W6 (01-741 2311). Tubas: Hamamam. Preview tonight, 8.30pm. Opens tomorrow 7.30-10pm; Tues-Thurs and Sat 2-4.30pm; Fri 2-11pm, Jan 14 (†)

★ A CHRISTMAS CAROL: In David Houghton's production of the Dickens classic, the story of a miser who is transformed by the spirit of Christmas. Swan Theatre, Swan Theatre, SW1 (01-930 9882). Tubas: Ploccocly. Mon-Sat 7.30pm; Sun 2.30pm and Thurs 2.30pm and Sat 2.30pm. 24-25 (†)

★ PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE: Theatre de Complicité's top grotto tribute to the horrors of a family Christmas. Almeida Theatre, Almeida St, N1 (01-368 4404). Tubas: Angel/Highbury. Sat 8.30pm, Sun 2.30pm, 23-25 (†)

★ THE RELIANCE: Roy Marsden and Kate O'Hara in British Actors Theatre revival of Vanbrugh's ever popular romp. Riverside Theatre, Puddle Dock, EC4 (01-292 5599). Tubas: Blackbird. Mon-Sat 7.30-9.30pm, mths Thurs 2.30-4.30pm and Sat 4-8.20pm. Sat Dec 31 only, parts 5-7.20pm and 8-10.20pm. Mon-Thurs and Sat 2.30pm, Fri and Sat 2.30pm. 24-25 (†)

★ THE ROAD OF THE GREATSPRINT: THE SMELL OF THE CROWD: First London showing of Anthony Newley's tuneful musical from the Studios. Orange Tree Theatre, 45 King Rd, Richmond (01-894 2222). Tubas: King Rd. Mon-Sat 8pm and mths Sat 8pm, Tues-Thurs 8pm, Fri, Sat 8pm. Sat 24, Tues-Thurs 25, Fri, Sat 26. Sat 24 (†)

★ SMELLING A RAT: New Mike Leigh comedy devised with the help of the cast, which includes Sheila Fearnley and Timothy Spall. Hampstead Theatre, Swiss Cottage, NW3 (01-722 9301). Tubas: Swiss Cottage. Mon-Sat 8pm; Mths Sat 4.30pm and Wed Dec 28 only, 8pm. Mon, Tues, Sat 2.30pm and Sat 2.30pm. 25-26 (†)

★ THE SHAUGHRAUN: Sensational melodrama by Boucicault with Stephen Pua as the central fellow bent on righting wrongs. National Theatre (Olivier), South Bank SE1 (01-222 2222). Tubas: Waterloo. Tonight 8pm. Mths 2.00pm, Eve parts 25-26. Sat 2.30pm, 25-26; midweek mths 25.

★ STINKFOOT: Utterly muddled but tuneful musical by Vivian Stanshall, late leader of the Bonzo Dog Doo-Ry Band: characters include a pig, a dog, a burglar and a partly cooked shrimp. Bloomsbury Theatre, Gordon St, WC1

OUT OF TOWN

BRISTOL: ★ Beyond Theatre: Christopher Durang's sprightly comedy opens Bristol's first pub theatre. The Comedy Theatre, 223 Gloucester Rd (0222 688779). Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Fri 8.30pm. 31.

MANCHESTER: ★ Arms and the Man: Peter Herzog plays the chocolate soldier in Casper Wrede's revival. Royal Exchange Theatre, Cross Street (01 555 9833). Mon-Thurs 7.30pm, Fri and Sat 8pm. Mon-Thurs 2.30pm and Sat 2.30pm. 24-25 (†)

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Source: Hatched, 187 Piccadilly, London W1



Star-crossed in love

Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet has found an unexpected pairing of great stars for tonight's romantic Giselle, which opens a short run of Peter Wright's long-established and popular production. Georgeina Janca (above left), who plays Albrecht, is a Romanian dancer who made his name mostly in an Italian context, first as a member of Linaeus Cozzi's company, then as the preferred partner of the Italian ballerina Carla Fracci. Tonight is his first appearance in London, although he has already danced with the Sadler's Wells company in the roles of Monique Lemaître (above right), who takes the title role, in an étude of the ballet of the Paris Opera. Her only

previous London appearances were as a young dancer during their Covent Garden season in 1982, memorably funny as the blind-as-a-bat bespectacled Helena in A Midsummer Night's Dream. At home she dances a wide variety of roles and is admired for her dramatic gifts as well as for her incisive technique. This couple will perform again next Thursday, between now and then Marina Tarkhanova's Giselle, with Roland Price, on December 28 with Peter Jacobson, and Karina Denonova dances Giselle with Joseph Cipolla on December 27. Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (01-278 8916), 7.30-9.30pm, £3.50-£19. John Farnell

of an Irish castle advertised as haunted. (22 min). Ocean West End (01-830 5202). Progs 1.15, 3.35, 6.20, 8.55. Late Fri, Sat 11.45.

★ SACRIFICED YOUTH (PG): Delicate film from a woman director, Zhang Nuzhen, about the culture clash experienced by a city girl exiled to the remote countryside during the Cultural Revolution. (96 min). Ocean West End (01-830 5202). Progs 12.30, 3.00, 6.45, 8.30.

★ SCROOGED (PG): Seasonal comedy featuring Bill Murray as the TV executive determined to exploit Christmas to the full. Directed by Richard Donner. (101 min). Ocean West End (01-830 5202). Progs 1.40, 4.00, 6.30, 8.50. Late Fri, Sat 11.30. Cannon Fulsam Rd (01-370 2839).

★ HIGH SPIRITS (16): Spirited supernatural comedy from director Neil Jordan, with Peter O'Toole as the owner

SOFT ART: Tactile sculpture by contemporary French artists. Concourse Gallery, Barbican Centre, Silk St, London EC2 (01-638 4141), daily 12-7.30pm, free, until Jan 25.

★ TUCKER THE MAN AND HIS DREAM (PG): Francis Coppola's portrait of American car visionary, Preston Tucker. With Jeff Bridges as Tucker. (110 min). Ocean West End (01-830 5202). Progs 12.30, 3.00, 6.45, 8.30.

★ WHO FRAMED ROGER RABBIT (PG): Energetic mixture of cartoons and real life. Ace animation director, Richard Williams supplies a frantic array of "toon" characters, headed by Roger Rabbit. Bob Hoskins plays the dishevelled gumshoe, Eddie Valiant. (104 min). Ocean West End (01-830 5202). Progs 6.00, 8.15 (not Sat, Sun). Cannon Fulsam Rd (01-370 2839).

★ CHRISTOPHER'S CHRISTMAS: Harry Christophers conducts The Stobson vocal group in Christmas music from medieval and Renaissance Europe.

★ BISHOP DESUIT: Stephen Eltop-Kovacsich appears for the first time at Snape, playing Beethoven's Piano Sonata Op. 31 No 3 and 110. Schumann's Appassionata Op 9 and a Chopin Mazurka. (75 min).

★ CHRIST'S CHILDHOOD: As a rather unexpected contribution to the 'angel' genre, Berke's L'Enfance de Christ is performed by the BBC SO, BBC Singers and soloists under David Atherton. Westminster Cathedral (01-628 8800), 8pm, £5 (†)

★ SIMON BOCCANEGRA: David Alden's strongly designed production for English National Opera, until Jan 17.

BEST SELLING BOOKS

For the week ending December 17

Table with 3 columns: Fiction, Non-fiction, Paperbackbacks. Lists titles and authors like 'The Edge, Dick Francis' and 'A Reflection on Things Past, Lord Carrington'.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 22

MOOREEN (b) A stout woollen or woaden and cotton material, used for carpets, etc. origin obscure, perhaps a fanciful derivation on moor; Hawthorne: 'The old gardener pulled aside the faded green curtains of the window and looked at the sky.'
CORACIC (c) American slang since the twenties for a woman, especially as it should be, quite satisfactory; also suggestive and other meanings, an inspection 'all clear', a sign check.

LAPELITE (a) To stomp, throw rocks at, lay waste to stomp, from the Latin lapidator to stone.

SCLANDER (c) A term used in the form of a book, used for holding botanical specimens, papers, maps, invented by the Swedish botanist Daniel Soderberg (1752-22). 'I shall be as happy in the archival of my sclander as he whose name it bears was to arrive once more in England after his circumnavigation.'

The above position is taken from the game between Macdonnell (White) and De la Bourdonnais (Black), played in London 1834. White, to move, wins. The winning move will be given in tomorrow's Times.

Solution to yesterday's position: White wins with 1 Rb4+.

GALLERIES

C R W NEVINSON (1859-1949): A retrospective of paintings, prints and drawings by a pioneer British Modernist. Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Sq (01 235 2800), Mon-Sat 9.30am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm, free, until Dec 31.

SILENCES OF MOONS: A collection of rural prints by outstanding etcher F.L. Griggs (1879-1958). Chesham Art Gallery, Clarence St (0242 237431), Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm, free, until Dec 31.

VICTOR PASMORE: New abstract paintings. Marlborough Fine Art, 6 Abchurch Lane, London WC1 (01-622 5151), Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-12.30pm, free, until Dec 31.

JEFFERY CAMP RAE: A retrospective of unframed graphic paintings since 1949. Laing Art Gallery, Highgate Place, Newcastle upon Tyne (0191 232 7734), Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-4.30pm, Sun 2.30-5.30pm, free, until Jan 17.

THE RELAPSE: "A delightful treat for the festive season." Evening Standard. (75 min). 7.30 Mon-Thurs 2.30 and 8.30.

NATIONAL THEATRE: THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA. (100 min). 7.15. The Phantoms of the Opera. (100 min). 7.15.

SEATS NOW AVAILABLE FOR GROUP BOOKINGS. 01-222 2222.

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cast led by Malcolm Donnelly. Ocean West End (01-830 5202). Progs 1.15, 3.35, 6.20, 8.55. Late Fri, Sat 11.45.

★ LA TRAVIATA: Göran Järvelöv's 1920s style production for Welsh National Opera reaches Southampton on tour with Frances Ginn as Violetta. Mayflower Theatre, Southampton (0703 227771), 7.15-10.15pm, £5.50-£24.

★ 1880'S EAST END MURDERS - JACK THE RIPPER: Tower Hill tube, 11am, £3 (01-441 8806).

★ A CHRISTMAS GHOST WALK: meet Embankment tube, 7.30pm, £3 (01-441 8806).

★ COCKNEYS, CRIMINALS AND JACK THE RIPPER - A PUB TOUR: meet Whitechapel tube, 7.30pm, £3 (01-682 3414).

★ DURAN DURAN: Actually billed as the Krush Brothers, this has to be one of the most assiduously publicized 'secret' gigs ever organized. Town & Country, 5-17 Highgate Rd, London NW5 (01-284 6033), 7.30pm, £3.

★ YANQI: Impeccably hip Mancunian funk/blues quartet. Dingwalls, Camden Lock, London NW1 (01-257 4967), 9pm, £5.

★ LEVEL 42: Perennial techno-pop funk favourites. Royal Academy, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1 (01-734 9052), 7.30pm, £3.50-£11.

★ KILLING JOKE: Moody ante-goths return bearing gifts: exotic Middle Eastern food, free punch, traditional Indian music by Calvin Singh and performances by Mohammed Khanoum and the Voice of Morocco. All free to help members of the Killing Joke fan club. Porchester Hall, Porchester Rd, London W2 (01-229 9850), 7pm, £15.

★ COURTNEY PINE: The best known face in British jazz plays a one-off at one of the capital's newer venues. La Prairie, 79 Stoke Newington High St, London N16 (01-522 0772), doors open 8.30pm, £5 including bar.

★ JULIAN JOSEPH: A veteran of earlier Five bands, the pianist leads a trio tonight. Jazz Cafe, 56 Newington Green, London N16 (01-359 4536), 8.30pm, £3.

★ SUE SHATTOCK: See caption. Base Club, 35 Coronet St, London N1 (01-729 2476), 8.45pm, £3.50.

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★ BISHOP DESUIT: Stephen Eltop-Kovacsich appears for the first time at Snape, playing Beethoven's Piano Sonata Op. 31 No 3 and 110. Schumann's Appassionata Op 9 and a Chopin Mazurka. (75 min).

★ CHRIST'S CHILDHOOD: As a rather unexpected contribution to the 'angel' genre, Berke's L'Enfance de Christ is performed by the BBC SO, BBC Singers and soloists under David Atherton. Westminster Cathedral (01-628 8800), 8pm, £5 (†)

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★ PETER KING: With all the publicity about Bird, this is an appropriate time to catch the country's leading Parker-pipe, altoist. Free Express, 10 Dean St, London W1 (01-438 8722), 8.30pm, £5.50.

★ LA TRAVIATA: Göran Järvelöv's 1920s style production for Welsh National Opera reaches Southampton on tour with Frances Ginn as Violetta. Mayflower Theatre, Southampton (0703 227771), 7.15-10.15pm, £5.50-£24.

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CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1752

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

SOLUTION TO NO 1751
ACROSS: 1. 3 Eggs, 8 Eggs, 10 Unknown, 11 Temp, 12 ESN, 13 Pans, 14 Gordale, 16 Profile, 18 Monks, 20 Nose, 22 Nerve, 23 Davenport, 24 Imbue, 25 Rido, 26 Jase
DOWN: 1. Chat up, 2. Flamingo, 3. Haute cuisine, 4. Liking, 6. Ekin, 7. Rejone, 9. Compos meatus, 15. Diarrhoe, 16. Pander, 17. Encore, 19. Shelduck, 21. Avid.

ENTERTAINMENTS

Opera & Ballet, Theatres, and other entertainment listings.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

The above position is taken from the game between Macdonnell (White) and De la Bourdonnais (Black), played in London 1834. White, to move, wins. The winning move will be given in tomorrow's Times.

Solution to yesterday's position: White wins with 1 Rb4+.

ART GALLERIES

Listings for various art galleries and exhibitions.

CINEMAS

Listings for various cinemas and film screenings.

THEATRE

Listings for various theatres and plays.



# Parents of tortured baby get 12 years

Continued from page 1  
department's head of field-work and community services, has been suspended on full pay for undisclosed reasons by Mr Dennis Simpson, the social services director.

Last night *Today* newspaper, against whom the council normally obtained the ex parte injunction, was attempting to have it lifted.

As legal action continued in the High Court, Mr Simon Hughes, SLD MP for the Southwark constituency in which Doreen lived, was planning to raise the case in the Commons amid allegations of a cover-up by Southwark.

Mr Simpson: He suspended social worker.

Doreen died in hospital from a brain haemorrhage on September 13 last year after a tortured life at her parents' filthy council flat at Arnold House, Dodding Grove, Watworth, south London.

She never had toys with which to play and slept on a quilt on the floor when she was not locked in a wardrobe as a punishment, whimpering with cold and fed a diet of potato crisps and beefburgers.

Twice her stepfather held her face under bathwater for up to two minutes as a punishment for refusing to eat and then pumped the water out of her before she drowned.

However, the most painful torture she endured was from her stepfather's determination to straighten her crippled left leg which had been fractured five times in her lifetime. To do this he forced her to stand for up to two hours at a time until she fainted, sometimes holding her in place against a wall with his head pressed into her stomach while he manipulated the leg with his hands. By

comparison the poorly clothed and frightened little child's other miseries were minor - left alone in her room for up to 14 hours while her parents stayed in bed and watched the television or played interminably their collection of Elvis Presley music on which they spent their money when they were not gambling.

The jury of six women and five men - reduced by one after one was injured in a road accident - found them guilty of manslaughter by a 10-1 majority and unanimously guilty of cruelty.

Often clearly upset by the evidence, the jury was told that Doreen's final fatal injury was caused when she was either slammed against a wall or dropped head-first on to a table.

She died when a life support machine was turned off by doctors with the permission of her mother.

Mason, the product of a broken home, was said never to have wanted Doreen. She had lost her first child Karl when he died from cot death syndrome at 10 weeks in 1985. But the little boy also had injuries which did not contribute to his death and Mason allegedly once told a social worker he had been smothered. It was for this reason Doreen was placed on Southwark council's at-risk register when she was only 18 days old.

The judge told Mason and Aston that "the offence of which you have been convicted was not due to any momentary loss of control on an isolated occasion."

"Prosecution counsel in my judgement was entirely accurate when he described your conduct towards that child during the last few weeks of her life as one of escalating violence."

Both of them knew that, on Friday, September 11 last year, a day before Doreen was taken unconscious into hospital, she "desperately needed medical attention."

"You knew that she was ill that Friday, but instead of taking her to the doctor or a hospital you selfishly indulged yourself by going on a record-buying spree", the judge said.

# Druids mark the winter solstice

RICHARD WINTLE



Two Druids celebrating the winter solstice yesterday within the Inner Circle of Stonehenge, watched by some of the several hundred travellers who gathered to take part in the ceremony, which began at 8.15am and lasted for an hour. Meanwhile, police arrested five hippies who assembled to mark the solstice. They were detained on a variety of charges, including drinking and driving while disqualified. The police had swooped on their camp of tents and battered vans and buses which had gathered near the ancient circle of stones on Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire.

# Political sketch A poison plot in Alice's world

We observed, earlier this week, that the British public harbours an unshakable conviction that somebody is trying to poison it. We concluded that Mrs Currie's star was sure to rise again.

We have been vindicated. Mrs Currie is already on her way to becoming, with Nelson Mandela and Sarah Tisdall, one of the great martyrs of our age. And the spectre of another great poisoning plot gripped the House anew yesterday.

It's rotten meat this time; and it has all the elements of a great conspiracy. The meat is foreign - better still, it is Irish. And it has come in under EEC regulations (Boo, hiss!) Best of all, the Ministry of Agriculture declares that there is "No cause for concern". Run for your stomach-pumps, citizens!

It fell to the Democrats' Matthew Taylor (Truro) to raise the alarm. Shipments of Irish meat had failed West Country health checks. "Would the minister take steps to ensure that meat entering the UK from the Republic of Ireland is fit for human consumption?" John MacGregor, the Agriculture Minister, replied.

The occasion was in the best traditions of the House. It was confused and unenlightening: all at cross-purposes. The minister avoided or misunderstood questions, while questioners never came to grips with answers. A series of non-sequiturs and crossed-lines, an Alice-Through-The-Looking-Glass world.

Mr Taylor said Mr MacGregor's Irish counterparty had declared that our ministry had not contacted his. MacGregor said that it had. This was not resolved.

Ulster's James Molyneux, complaining about "Some EEC countries" (no mention of "Catholic") asked whether it was true that only 5 per cent of meat imports were actually checked, so some could have slipped through the net?

Mr MacGregor, who had just told us that "the important point is that the system of checking has worked", replied: "Obviously it is not possible to check every consignment." David Curry (Skipton and Ripon) repeated the question: was all meat checked? MacGregor replied that there was no

evidence that problems had been found outside the West Country. Sir David Price (Eastleigh) asked whether the offending Irish abattoir was EEC-approved. The minister said that it must have been. "But it wasn't!" we heard a seated Sir David complain. His complaint went unanswered.

Then Robin Maxwell-Hyslop (Tiverton) asked if the checks were made on the documentation, or on the meat itself. Mr MacGregor replied that it certainly was an interesting question whether the meat had deteriorated before or after the documentation.

Labour's Tom Cox (Wandsworth) exploded. In the tones, and with the look, of an apoplectic greengrocer, he asked whose laws we were under - British or foreign? The minister replied that we set excellent standards.

It is to be hoped that the Hansard reporters prepare their drafts on those rolls of continuously unrolling paper. If individual leaves were used, and if these were, by any mischance, shuffled randomly, there would be no thread of argument, no narrative, no logical sequence, no sign of engagement by one human intellect with another, no evidence of the application of a single human intelligence... by which the fragments of the occasion could be pieced together into a true replica.

Parliament resembled one of those joke jigsaw-puzzles - where, after hours of fruitless attempt, it turns out that the components do not, in fact, fit together into any picture at all... I wandered bleakly out.

My return found the Home Secretary outlining new laws on Official Secrets: the Secret Policemen's Bill.

Mr Hurd was explaining that it would be quite lawful for someone who suspected his telephone was tapped, to publish this - unless, he told Mr Hattersley, the citizen had reason to believe his belief was true. Then, if those reasons were well-founded, it would be an offence. Poor Alice.

What will this do for press-standards? Only the most ill-founded stories will be lawful. This is a charter for *Sunday Sport*.

Matthew Parris

# Manhunt after police discover huge IRA bomb cache in London suburb

Continued from page 1

voivier with a full chamber found in the Renault.

The cache is the largest found in London this decade and among the biggest found by police on the mainland.

The IRA is thought to have large supplies of Semtex which may have been smuggled into Britain.

Mr Harry Nicoll, aged 36, who lives in a flat near by, said: "I remember hearing a loud bang not long after I went to bed just after midnight. I

just thought it was a car backing so I went back to sleep. The next thing I knew was loud banging on my door and neighbours' doors and a police officer asked us to leave the area because there had been a shooting and a man had escaped."

The families were taken to local police stations where they were interviewed about the new occupants of Staplehurst Court.

"We were sitting around having a cup of tea and a detective told us a gunman

had escaped and some ammunition and explosives had been found in flat number eight. We were all shocked to hear that," added Mr Nicoll.

Intelligence sources believe the active service unit would only have been in London for a short time, perhaps three or four weeks. "But they wouldn't have arrived cold," one source said.

"All the organization for the operation would have been arranged by permanent IRA staff who live on the mainland. So if they were planning

to bomb Harrods or somewhere like that, it would not have taken very long."

In Ulster, the IRA spends months planning a major attack. Aware that security is always much higher in Northern Ireland than on the mainland, active service units have been known to postpone action for weeks or even months.

"They have a greater degree of flexibility," one source said. "But on the mainland, they are sent over to do a specific job. They don't have the same

flexibility nor the support for switching plans and delaying an operation. So provided the cell in London has not already planted bombs with timing devices, the operation has hopefully been scuppered."

A source in Belfast said: "Over here the IRA would never have had a member of an active service unit sitting or sleeping in the back of a car prior to an operation. It would have immediately aroused suspicion amongst the security authorities who are constantly

on the look-out for anything suspicious."

The flat in Staplehurst House was a "safe house", presumably picked by one of the "sleepers" living on the mainland, sources said.

There had been no specific intelligence warning that an active service unit was in London. However, military and government establishments have been on a high state of vigilance since the IRA bombing campaigns earlier in the year. It was also recognized that Christmas

could be the most likely time for an IRA attack.

Military establishments are currently on a "Black Special" alert status. Had there been a definite intelligence tip-off of an IRA operation, the alert would have been raised to "Bikini Amber".

The Staplehurst Court development comprises about 30 flats built for rented accommodation about 25 years ago by the then Labour-controlled Wandsworth Council. In the past 10 years, with the Conser-

vative taking over, most of the flats have been sold off with recent sales fetching an average of £55,000.

It is still unclear if the two wanted men living at flat number 8 had bought the accommodation or were renting it. Twenty years ago, the area - which is situated between Wandsworth Common and Clapham Common - had a relatively large Irish presence but this has merged with an increased Caribbean element several years ago.

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,859

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-29 indicating starting positions for clues.

- ACROSS**
- Dance written by Ireland to a danseuse (9).
  - Managed to put finishing touch to wall (5).
  - Just one on either side of the keeper (7).
  - Strait-faced girl enters into the joke (7).
  - Hold note to file (5).
  - Bar gets a black eye to nurse for a start (9).
  - Confused to a great degree through illness (8).
  - Note Henry's pulse (4).
  - Son - could be the third (4).
  - Sort of curvant, say, in plum cake (8).
  - How Samuel helped himself? (9).
  - On the way back, notice tea in country house (5).
  - Damned setter has disappeared! (7).
  - Detail in bit of news is an eye-opener (7).
  - Often pickled, servant has to leave (5).
  - Portray separately incidental information (9).
- DOWN**
- Miserable mark's state in America (4,5).
  - Poet, student or accountant (5).
  - It is used for sheltering before the soldiers go in (3-5).
  - Difference in pitch produces a break (8).
  - How's that for an attraction? (6).
  - Yell plate (6).
  - Pui heroic creation in "A Gentleman of Verona" (9).
  - He was capped while still at school (5).
  - It's growing late for embarkation (7,2).
  - Distinctive feature of a maiden in Tanniel original (9).
  - Hen perhaps spotted beetle (8).
  - Sound this as you pass Acton, perhaps? (8).
  - Gogol's characters include one woman's man (6).
  - Monstrous woman to note in biblical Kingship (6).
  - A place of changing moods (5).
  - A cold fish to embrace (5).

## WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?  
By Philip Howard

**MORSEAN**  
a. An Irish maiden  
b. A stout corded fabric  
c. A helmet visor

**COPACETIC**  
a. With extra acid  
b. OK  
c. A police detective

**LAPIDATE**  
a. To throw stones at  
b. Babble-like  
c. To sift or garble

**SOLANDER**  
a. The sea goose  
b. To soothe or console  
c. A box like a book

Answers on page 20

## WEATHER

Scotland and Northern Ireland will have sunny intervals and showers, some heavy with hail and thunder especially in the north and west of Scotland. There will be snow on hills. After a cloudy start northern England will become brighter with a few showers in the west. The rest of England and Wales will have a cloudy day but with bright intervals in the east. Outlook: mild, rain or drizzle in places, windy in the north.

**ABROAD**

Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Algeria	14-17	S	clear
Alexandria	18-21	S	clear
Amman	17-20	S	clear
Baghdad	11-15	S	clear
Bangkok	24-27	S	clear
Bombay	24-27	S	clear
Buenos Aires	11-15	S	clear
Calcutta	24-27	S	clear
Cairo	15-19	S	clear
Chongqing	11-15	S	clear
Colombo	24-27	S	clear
Hong Kong	24-27	S	clear
London	11-15	S	clear
Madras	24-27	S	clear
Manila	24-27	S	clear
Medan	24-27	S	clear
Perth	11-15	S	clear
Rangoon	24-27	S	clear
Singapore	24-27	S	clear
Sydney	11-15	S	clear
Tokyo	11-15	S	clear
Yokohama	11-15	S	clear

**AROUND BRITAIN**

Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	11-15	S	clear
Edinburgh	11-15	S	clear
Birmingham	11-15	S	clear
Manchester	11-15	S	clear
Cardiff	11-15	S	clear
Belfast	11-15	S	clear
London	11-15	S	clear
Edinburgh	11-15	S	clear
Birmingham	11-15	S	clear
Manchester	11-15	S	clear
Cardiff	11-15	S	clear
Belfast	11-15	S	clear

**HIGH TIDES**

Port	Time	Height
London	12:41	6.8
Edinburgh	12:41	12.1
Avonmouth	12:41	12.3
Belfast	12:41	12.3
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Sketch  
plot in  
world

MARKETS	
FT 30 Share	1435.0 (-3.3)
FT-SE 100	1772.6 (-4.8)
USM (Datastream)	145.77 (-0.15)
THE POUND	
US dollar	1.8075 (-0.0005)
W German mark	3.2029 (-0.0018)
Trade-weighted	77.5 (-0.3)

Executive Editor  
David Brewerton



What do the big money manipulators see for the New Year, and where will they put their cash? Find out in *The Times* on Monday. Family Money's Santa discovers some of the joys and pitfalls of struggling through the tax and investment maze. Join him in the game of seasonal snakes and ladders on Saturday.

**Plan for Suter**  
Three executive directors of Suter, the industrial conglomerate, have confirmed they are putting together a possible management buy-out. Suter shares rose 15p to 204p. *Tempos, page 24*

**Peel attacks**  
Peel Holdings launched another attack on bid target London Shop, the retail property company. Peel claimed London Shop's growth in net asset per share had been poor. *Tempos, page 24*

STOCK MARKETS	
New York	Dow Jones 2164.82 (-1.25)
Tokyo	Nikkei Average 29688.19 (+130.25)
Hong Kong	Hang Seng 2638.09 (+25.12)
Amsterdam Gen	283.5 (-1.7)
Sydney	ASX 1479.4 (+15.7)
Frankfurt	Commerzbank 1639.6 (-10.2)
Brussels	General 5500.1 (+35.3)
Paris	CAC 397.6 (+2.5)
Zurich	SKA Gen 510.7 (+2.3)
London	FT-A All-Share 914.61 (-2.03)
FT-500	895.02 (-2.10)
FT-Gold Mines	164.7 (+1.1)
FT-Fixed Interest	98.10 (-0.05)
FT-Govt Secs	67.28 (+0.02)
Recent issues	Page 26
Closing prices	Page 27

MAIN PRICE CHANGES	
RSES:	Suter 203 1/2p (+15p)
Urigate	315p (+16 1/2p)
Arcliffe	157 1/2p (+10p)
Chrysalis	123 1/2p (+8p)
Siebe	378 1/2p (+8p)
Silentrigh	139 1/2p (+8p)
Satchell	121 1/2p (+8p)
Federated Housing	219 1/2p (+8p)
A Cohen	300p (+25p)
Camford Eng	194 1/2p (+19p)
LASMO	479 1/2p (+8p)
Ultramar	288 1/2p (+9p)

FALLS	
Christies Intl	630 1/2p (-14p)
Elys (Wimbledon)	725p (-15p)
ICI	571p (-11p)
Rossmore	472 1/2p (-25p)
Barton Transport	650p (-25p)
Charter Cons	452p (-15p)
Int Thomson	670p (-10p)
Yale & Valer	513 1/2p (-9p)
Closing prices	19841
SEAD Volume	474.7m

INTEREST RATES	
London Bank Base	13%
3-month Interbank	13-12 1/2%
3-month eligible bills	12 1/2-12 1/4%
buying rate	
US Prime Rate	10 1/4%
Federal Funds 8 1/2	8.11%
3-month Treasury Bill	8.12-8.11%
30-year bonds	100 1/2-100 1/4%

CURRENCIES	
London:	New York:
£: \$1.8075	£: \$1.8070
£: DM 2.2029	£: DM 2.2025
£: Sfr 2.7022	£: Sfr 2.7018
£: FF 16.4855	£: FF 16.4850
£: Yen 224.85	£: Yen 224.80
£: Index 27.5	£: Index 27.5
ECU 60.64964	SDR 60.744874

GOLD	
London Fixing:	AM \$413.85 pm \$414.80
Close	\$415.25-415.75 (\$229.75-230.25)
New York:	Comex \$415.50-416.00

NORTH SEA OIL	
Brent (Feb) 1pm	\$15.00/bbl (\$14.85)
*Denotes latest trading price	

THE TIMES STOCK WATCH	
0898 141 141	

Market news on Stock-watch yesterday included: Plessey (02468) came back from suspension and gained 6p; merchant banks were up on hopes that they have reached a support level, with Kleinwort Benson (01014) 8p higher and SG Warburg (02581) up 3p; among losers were internationalists, with Reuters (02706) 4p cheaper and ICI (01348) losing 3p; British Airways (01846) lost 1p on disappointment that it cannot buy Air New Zealand. Recent additions include: Thorpac 8% conv pref 03537; Venture Plan 03538; Compass Trust 03540. Calls charged 5p for 8 seconds peak, 12 seconds off peak inc. VAT.

# Conflict of interest fear over NatWest inspector

By Richard Thomson and Cliff Feltham  
Mr Michael Crystal QC, one of the two inspectors appointed this week by the Department of Trade and Industry to look into share dealings by County NatWest, has frequently acted as counsel for National Westminster Bank, it emerged yesterday.  
His relationship with NatWest raises the question of a conflict of interest in his role as an investigator into the affairs of the clearer's merchant banking subsidiary.  
Mr Crystal acted directly for the clearing bank as recently as last year, in a case where the bank was

concerned about the appointment of receivers in relation to a client company which had run into financial trouble.  
Mr Crystal, a banking and insolvency expert, has also acted indirectly for NatWest on several occasions, by representing receivers appointed by the bank's Recovery Department.  
In a statement, the DTI said: "Neither Mr Crystal nor the DTI consider that there is any conflict of interest. He has in the past worked for National Westminster's recovery branch. Mr Crystal has never had any connection with County NatWest or County

NatWest Securities." The DTI added that Mr Crystal would not be acting on behalf of NatWest during the period of the inquiry.  
The DTI confirmed that an inquiry has already begun into County's acquisition, in September last year, of a 9.5 per cent stake in Blue Arrow, the employment agency.  
The investigation, which follows two internal inquiries by NatWest, will involve examining documentation relating to County's dealings with Blue Arrow, and interviewing present and former staff of the merchant bank. The main inquiry is into the division of

the stake into two parts of less than 5 per cent, neither of which were disclosed at the time.  
Mr Malcolm Glover, a partner in Wilde Sapte, one of NatWest's solicitors, said that the firm had used Mr Crystal to represent the bank. He added: "Mr Crystal is bound to have acted on some liquidation cases where NatWest was a debenture holder."  
He pointed out, however, that most QCs specializing in banking law would have acted for a bank as large as NatWest.  
"If the DTI was looking for a top QC in this field, there is a good chance that most have acted for

NatWest at some time," Mr Glover added.  
Mr Crystal has acted directly and indirectly for most of the leading British banks in recent years.  
Meanwhile, Blue Arrow has insisted that Phillips & Drew is still its stockbroker, despite reports that the firm, which acted as adviser alongside County NatWest in the £837 million rights issue to pay for the acquisition of Manpower, was about to be dismissed. There was no reaction from P&D last night.  
Blue Arrow has recently begun using Lazzards, the merchant bank, in preference to County NatWest. The employment agency said it had

adopted this move to avoid any possible conflict of interest which might arise in view of County NatWest's own large shareholding in Blue Arrow.  
But this step has been widely interpreted as a move towards appointing a new set of advisors. Blue Arrow is keen to distance itself as much as possible from the investigation into County NatWest's role in the rights issue and its subsequent holding in Blue Arrow.  
Disclosures about P&D's own handling of the share placing after the issue are bound to have added to Blue Arrow's embarrassment.

# US senators seek Plessey bid inquiry

Members of the US Senate Armed Services Committee have called for a full investigation of the £1.7 billion bid for Plessey in order to examine its effect on US national security.  
Committee members are understood to be concerned over the future ownership of Plessey, which has a number of top-secret Defence Department contracts.  
They have also expressed disquiet over the USSR trading relationships of Siemens, the West German group which is bidding jointly with GEC.

A key source of unease is the recent agreement under which Siemens will design and build a reactor for the USSR incorporating the latest generation of nuclear technology.  
US representatives on CoCom, a joint committee of the leading industrialized countries which polices strategic exports, have already expressed concern over the transfer of nuclear technology to the Eastern bloc.  
Under the terms of the bid, GEC will acquire a 50 per cent interest in Siemens defence interests and Plessey's US defence operations will be split, with Siemens taking a 49 per cent stake.

The driving force behind the call for an investigation by the US Treasury department is Senator Strom Thurmond, a leading member of the Armed Services Committee and a hawk on military matters.  
Senator Thurmond has told Mr Nicholas Brady, the Treasury Secretary, that Plessey's US subsidiaries are involved in what he describes as "some of the most critical and sensitive US defence technologies." In a letter to Mr Brady he cites anti-submarine warfare systems, a state-of-the-art communications network designed to distribute information to US forces and other "special access" Defence Department programmes.  
"The acquisition of Plessey's US operations which are entrusted with these and other technologies vitally important to the US defence programme possibly raises important implications for US national security especially in the light of recent activities of Siemens AG," he says.

# RR and NEI merger talks break down



Problems on price: Sir Francis Tombs of Rolls-Royce, which has failed to reach agreement

By Derek Harris  
Industrial Editor  
Merger talks between Rolls-Royce, the aero-engine maker, and Northern Engineering Industries (NEI) have broken down. The City had expected a cash takeover bid to value NEI at about £350 million.  
Rolls-Royce, which has built up a 4.7 per cent stake in NEI, has held discussions with NEI aimed at a takeover or merger but Rolls-Royce said last night that the price gap had proved unbridgeable. It had not made an offer, said a spokesman. The talks had been discontinued with no plans for reviving them, he added.  
Rolls-Royce, whose chairman is Sir Francis Tombs, will consider the future of its NEI stake of 11 million shares "in due course." When the stake was revealed, however, it said it regarded it as an investment on which it would receive a satisfactory income.  
The logic of a merger would have been to create a company better able to take advantage of the emerging market in power generation after the privatization of the electricity industry.  
Rolls-Royce uses versions of its gas turbine engines to produce industrial power units which can be used to top up electricity supplies, while NEI builds much bigger power generators.  
At one stage during the talks the possibility of joint ventures rather than a merger was mentioned. These are still not precluded although no possibilities are being pursued.  
The question is whether an alternative bidder has been waiting in the wings to jump in when Rolls-Royce made a bid and whether it might now make a move. Although the likeliest apparent contender would be Lord Weinstock's General Electric Company, NEI's main rival in large-scale power generation, GEC was reported to have ruled itself out. Speculation centred on BICC and FKI Babcock or possibly a large civil engineering contractor.  
There was no comment last night from NEI.

## Early BCG payment ruled out

The chances of the go-ahead being given before mid-January for an interim payout to most investors in Barlow Clowes group have been ruled out in the High Court.  
Mr John Lindsay, QC, for Mr Michael Jordan and Mr Nigel Hamilton, the joint liquidators of Barlow Clowes Gilt Managers (BCGM), the British arm of the collapsed investment group, gave the news to Mr Justice Peter Gibson yesterday.  
It had been hoped that a 25p in the £1 holding payment could be made to some 6,000 investors who had placed their money via Midland Bank.  
The payment depends on the consent of the Gibraltar-based Barlow Clowes International and, in turn, needs the consent of the Crown Colony's courts.  
Mr Lindsay said Gibraltar court time was not likely to be available until after January 9.  
Barlow Clowes International investors have been told by the joint liquidators that their interim payout cannot be effected until after court hearings on rights in the new year.

## Plastic cartels in £40m EEC fines

Imperial Chemical Industries, British Petroleum and Shell, with 20 other leading petrochemical companies, were fined more than £40 million by the European Commission yesterday for participating in two illegal price-fixing and market-sharing cartels between 1980 and 1984.  
The fines were announced after a five-year investigation by the Commission's competition watchdog, responsible for enforcing the competition provisions of the Treaty of Rome, which involved a series of dawn raids on company premises throughout the European Economic Community.  
The cartels were operated in the low-density polyethylene sector, used to make film packaging, and the PVC sector, used for a variety of construction products, soft furnishings and toys, where the companies had the majority of the market.  
The cartels first came to light in October 1983, during a separate investigation into anti-competitive practices in the polypropylene sector, as a result of which 15 petrochemical companies were also fined.  
"The Commission has taken its decision because of the clear infringement of the Treaty," said Mr Peter Sutherland, the outgoing Competition Commissioner. "It is particularly important in the context of 1992 to ensure that competition in the Common Market is not distorted, otherwise restricted behaviour and cartels will fragment the market and raise costs for other producers and consumers."  
The Commission said that the PVC cartel had been established in October 1980, in response to a sudden contraction in demand following the boom year of 1979.  
Confiscated documents demonstrated that the cartel had been operating a quota system until the middle of 1984.  
BASF, the West German company, was given the largest fine of about £7 million. ICI, Shell and BP were fined £4 million, £1.1 million and £50,000 respectively.

## Pilkington in German move

By Colin Narbrough  
Pilkington, the glassmaker, plans to make a cash offer of up to £110.5 million for minority interests in its publicly-quoted West German glass and plastics subsidiaries, Flachglas and Dahlbusch Verwaltungen.  
The company expects the move, part of a restructuring plan for its West German operations ready for the Single European Market in 1992, to save Pilkington £10 million a year. The offer will be financed through the issue of preference shares to institutional investors in West Germany.  
A new wholly-owned holding company, Pilkington GmbH, will acquire the group's shareholdings with loans at an initial average interest cost of 6 per cent.  
Pilkington acquired the majority holdings - 79.5 per cent in Flachglas and 82.9 per cent in Dahlbusch - in 1980, paying the French group BSN £170 million in cash. The two, which control about 20 per cent of the West German market, have been increasingly profitable under Pilkington control and have contributed significantly to group profits.  
The minorities' share of Flachglas and Dahlbusch pre-tax profits was said to be about £13.7 million for the 15 months to March 31 this year.  
The offer has been calculated in accordance with West German company law.

## High Court ruling fuels water fight

The scramble for control of statutory water companies is likely to intensify after a High Court decision freeing water authorities to buy stakes in their private rivals before privatization.  
The Water Companies Association has lost its attempt to establish that share-buying by Southern Water and Northumbrian Water was inconsistent with their obligations under the 1973 Water Act.  
Southern Water has stakes in the West Kent, Mid Sussex and Eastbourne water companies. It is now likely to be able to block agreed bids for West Kent and Mid Sussex from SAUR of France.  
Comment, page 25

## Norman Macrae, Deputy Editor of The Economist, retires this week after 40 years with the paper.

When he began writing in 1948, he thought it unlikely the world would last as long as it has.

Readers will be glad to know he takes a more optimistic view of the next 40 years in his parting shot, "The Next Ages of Man."

That's not all. The Double Issue of The Economist tells you about brand names, embassies, young economists, famous foreigners in Britain... and God.

It's out now, £2.



## Chief executive profits from GrandMet takeover Loser is a winner in Pillsbury battle

From Bailey Morris  
Washington  
In the midst of his abortive struggle to retain control of Pillsbury, Mr Philip Smith prepared to protect his own banks in the event of defeat. A classic form of the US-spawned "golden parachute" was devised to safeguard the financial interests of senior management. In November, as the battle with Grand Metropolitan raged, Pillsbury decreed that Mr Smith and his executive team would receive double their salary and bonus packages as "liquidated damages" in the event of a change in command.  
For Mr Smith alone this amounted to \$2 million (£1.1 million), bringing the total he stands to gain from his five-month tenure as chief executive of Pillsbury to \$8 million.  
Even in corporate America, where golden parachutes, platinum handshakes and mega-buyout contracts are a way of life, the compensation terms were star-

ling. Given Pillsbury's poor earnings and mounting shareholder ire over executive compensation packages, few had expected Mr Smith to profit this much.  
It was largely because of the compensation package that would have enriched Mr F Ross Johnson, the chief executive of RJR Nabisco, that the angry Nabisco board voted against his management-led buyout. During the six-week dual between Nabisco's management and Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, the investment firm, Mr Johnson was widely criticized over what he stood to gain. Not only did he stand to make millions from the buyout, but there were reports of high living during his days at Nabisco. Huge sums were spent on corporate lodging in Palm Springs, California, on special security measures for Mr Johnson and on a fleet of corporate jets so vast it was known as the "RJR Air Force."  
Mr Smith's rewards are more modest, but only by comparison. When he was lured away from General Foods on

August 1, he negotiated an annual salary of \$625,000 in addition to a bonus of \$375,000 for the fiscal year to end-May 1989. This would have doubled under the liquidation pact. He would also receive annual retirement benefits estimated at more than \$200,000.  
Thanks to lucrative stock options and his own large holdings, Mr Smith will be able to tender an estimated 75,000 shares to GrandMet at \$66 each. Most of these were intended as long-term incentives but now they amount to a windfall profit for Mr Smith. Pillsbury's stock has moved from about \$37 to \$66 a share.  
As GrandMet closed in on the deal this month, Mr Smith negotiated another perk. Pillsbury guaranteed to protect his investment in his \$1.53 million house in the exclusive suburb of Deephaven near Minneapolis. Pillsbury and its parent, GrandMet, will buy the house from Mr Smith at the price he paid if he is unable to sell it within six months of his termination as chief executive.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

US record producer takes Chrysalis stake

Chrysalis Group, the troubled record company, has found a new supporter in Mr David Geffen, the US record label owner, producer and writer, who has emerged with a 5.69 per cent stake.

Profits slip at Batleys

Batleys, the Yorkshire cash and carry group, saw pre-tax profits slip from £628,000 to £521,000 in the six months to end-October. Earnings per share fell from 2.56p to 2.10p, but the interim dividend is held at 0.5p.

Payout rise at Sterling

Sterling Industries, 68.3 per cent owned by Cayzer Trust, is lifting its interim dividend from 1p a share to 1.1p after a rise in pre-tax profits from £711,000 to £986,000 in the six months to end-September. Earnings per share are 3.31p (2.42p). Sterling's main asset is its 8.5 per cent holding in Caledonia Investments, although it is building up engineering interests.

Hughes takes option

Hughes Food Group has taken an option to acquire, at any time over the next two years, G Barracough, the Bradford soft drinks company currently the subject of a financial rescue by Mr John Hughes, the Hughes chairman. Hughes shareholders will have to give approval to any acquisition, with Mr Hughes abstaining from voting. The purchase price would be a nominal sum plus his costs and expenses.

Perkins expansion

Perkins Foods is paying 2.5 million guilders (£691,000) for Champeex, a Dutch distributor of canned and chilled mushrooms. It is the main Dutch exporter of the produce of Champifri, a Dutch company bought by Perkins in July. The vendors have taken £1.875 million in cash and the balance in new shares, depending on profits.

New system for Liffe

The London International Financial Futures Exchange has fully implemented its Trade Registration System, which allows all futures and options trades to be matched and confirmed within an hour of execution. TRS will be introduced next year by the London Traded Options Market, providing a common system with Liffe.

IMI buys in Germany

IMI has acquired the outstanding 75 per cent of Lintra Lin-eartransporter of West Germany it does not own for DM28 million (£9 million) in a deal which expands its fluid control interests there.

Sale Tilney in £6m deal

Sale Tilney is buying Tesla Engineering, which designs and makes electromagnets, for £6 million cash. Tesla operates from six units on a site in Storrington, Sussex. Its turnover for the year to end-September was £4.56 million, with pre-tax profits of £2.1 million. Prospects for Tesla are encouraging, the company says.

Rockware acquisition

Rockware Group is buying 75 per cent of Dartington Glass, the glass tableware producer, for £3.7 million in cash. The balance is being retained by the Dartington Hall Trust. For the year to end-March Dartington showed profits of £334,000, before tax and covenant payments to the trust, on a turnover of £6.5 million.

Suter heads for bargain basement

Long-suffering Suter shareholders will be glad of any kind of exit from the increasingly tangled affairs of Mr David Abell's once high-flying conglomerate. But the offer expected to emerge from the management buyout team is unlikely to be generous.

The management team - which includes all the executive directors except Mr Abell and Mr Mike Riley, who is in charge of property operations - is thought to be talking to existing shareholders, some of whom have probably already given their blessing to a notional exit figure.

What they are in effect doing is calculating how far they can decently pitch their bid below the 260p a share on offer at one stage from Thomson T-Line.

The reaction of Suter's non-executive directors, and its financial adviser, Robert Fleming, will be significant, particularly if the eventual price is especially mean.

The "fire sale" at Suter has run for more than a year now - ever since allegations about Mr Suter's business affairs on Channel 4, which are now the subject of legal action.

The only bargain-hunter yet detected picking through the damaged stock has been Thomson. Opinions are divided over whether its bid failed because Thomson shareholders felt the terms to be too

generous or merely doubted its management's ability to get the best out of the Suter assets.

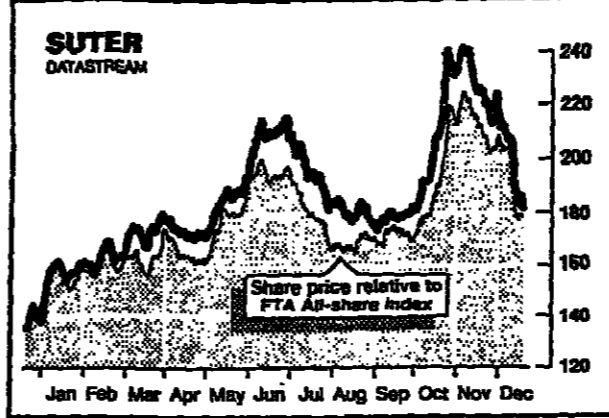
Even assessing a fair break-up value for Suter is complicated. Large chunks of the half-way profits came from property and share dealing, and the latter will be boosted by Banner Industries exercising its option over 27 per cent of Avdel. The only other significant stake is almost 30 per cent of Metal Closures, worth £14 million.

Mr Matthew Sutherland at Kleinwort Benson Securities is looking for £40 million pre-tax from Suter in calendar 1988, of which £27 million will come from the core industrial and distribution businesses.

On this basis 230p a share, which seems a fair bet on where the management will pitch its offer, represents an exit multiple of little more than 10 times and values the company at £272 million. Hardy generous; but it might tempt shareholders who have seen a fall from a pre-crash 320p, not to mention gamblers who moved in at 180p in the hope of a bid.

London Shop

Mr John Whitaker's Peel Holdings has intensified its campaign to take over London Shop, the retail property company putting up stout resis-



tance to the £282 million takeover bid.

Peel is claiming that London Shop's performance has been disappointing in view of its specialist retailing niche, and goes on to discredit its growth in net assets compared with other property investment companies.

London Shop is again accused of bad management of its development properties, on the grounds that over the last three years only nine developments or major refurbishments have been completed - a "pathetic" performance, according to Peel.

If London Shop's rating has suffered in the past, it is probably because it has tended to concentrate on the less glamorous parts of the property sector, such as suburban shopping parades.

pletely throwing its own balance sheet out of kilter.

As it is, Peel shareholders meet today to approve its plans for a rights issue to finance its takeover bid. Its shares are currently sagging below the 300p rights price.

London Shop shareholders should wait for the valuation before deciding whether to take Peel's money, or sell in the stock market.

Delta

Delta's decision to set up a joint cables company with Hawker Siddeley is the sort of development the market has awaited.

For Delta, the 1970s were characterized by recession; the 1980s by slow but steady profits improvement. The 1990s are open for expansion.

Delta Crompton Cables (64 per cent owned by Delta, 36 per cent by Hawker Siddeley) could be just the start of a new approach to Europe in particular and to business opportunities in general.

And because it follows hard on the heels of last month's £20 million acquisition of FL Surprenant, the US high-tech-cable manufacturer, it demonstrates that a new spark is running through Delta.

In the past 18 months, Delta has spent £265 million on acquisitions and more are in the pipeline.

The essence of the latest

deal is that it links up complementary activities of both groups, from which rationalization benefits are bound to spring.

Delta retains under its own control various aspects of its cables division (comprising cables operations and circuit protection and control), including FL Surprenant, but since the joint operations involve nine sites, a more streamlined operation should evolve.

This in turn would give Delta Crompton the critical mass to properly challenge European markets.

With a combined estimated turnover of £200 million, the new group has every prospect of holding 12 per cent of Britain's annual £1.5 billion cable market, still dominated by BICC with £400 million of domestic sales.

Net assets of the two are put at £75 million, and last year's combined profits totalled £23.4 million.

Delta is about to close off its 1988 financial year, and after posting pre-tax profits of £64.2 million in 1987 and interim profits this year of £34.1 million (£30.3 million), the expected result is about £72 million.

Delta has been linked with RTZ in market circles, although as yet no evidence has appeared of any ties but even on its prospective p/e multiple of 8.25 the shares have attractions in their own right.

Latin American presidents seek summit on debt

Brazilia (Reuters) - The presidents of seven Latin American debtor nations will seek a summit with leaders of the main industrialized countries to analyse the debt problem, Brazilian officials said yesterday.

Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela say they want to reduce the region's \$420 billion (£233 billion) debt to ensure economic growth and safeguard the area's young democracies.

Senhor Carlos Henrique Santos, the Brazilian presidential spokesman, said the Latin American presidents would seek a summit with the leaders of the United States, Britain, Canada, Japan, West Germany, France and Italy.

Brazil is co-ordinator of the Latin American group, which last week held a meeting of finance and economy ministers in Rio de Janeiro to shape a debt reduction plan.

The meeting said the need for debt reduction was urgent. Between 1983 and 1987 Latin America transferred more than \$100 billion to creditor countries and the region is suffering economic crisis with no prospects of real growth.

On Sunday, the World Bank said that, although the rise in Third World debt would slow to 3 per cent in 1988 from 11 per cent in 1987, low economic growth in many debtor nations meant no end was in sight to the six-year-old world debt crisis.

In its annual world debt tables, the Bank put Third World debt at \$1,300 billion. Mr George Bush, US President-elect, pleased Latin American leaders on Monday when he said he would undertake a major review of US debt strategy.

Many in Latin America hope next year will see a breakthrough in solving the crisis.

Brierley's £229m bid wins battle for Air New Zealand

From Richard Long Wellington

Lord King's British Airways yesterday lost the battle to buy Air New Zealand, beaten by a consortium set up by Brierley Investments, the New Zealand group headed by Sir Ron Brierley, which included Qantas, the Australian airline.

BA was favoured by Air New Zealand management - who privately lobbied cabinet ministers to back a business arrangement with the British carrier - but the tender price was uncompetitive. Mr David Caygill, New Zealand's new finance minister, and Mr Stanley Rodger, the minister for state-owned enterprises, said the NZ\$660 million (£229 million) sale was decided on price.

The ministers announced the sale after a meeting of the government caucus. They declined to give the details of the unsuccessful bid. A BA



Sir Ron: successful suitor



Lord King: disappointment

spokesman said that the airline was disappointed by the decision. He said that BA believed a partnership between it and Air New Zealand would have produced significant benefits for both carriers.

The New Zealand government is to retain a special

"Kiwi share" to ensure that 65 per cent of the airline's shares remain in New Zealand hands - a move regarded as essential to preserve the bilateral landing rights.

At least 30 per cent of the shares must be made available to the public and staff of the airline. Initially, Brierley Investments will have to purchase 65 per cent of the shares and sell on at least 30 per cent to the public and staff. Under the terms of the agreement Brierley Investments cannot make any profit on the sale.

Market experts said that without these hindrances on the sale the airline would have fetched a much higher price.

After the sell-off the shareholdings will be: Brierley Investments 35 per cent; public and staff 30 per cent; Qantas 19.9 per cent; American Airlines 7.5 per cent; and Japan Airlines 7.5 per cent.

Labour split as Lange sells Postbank

In another important development in its privatization programme New Zealand's Labour government caused a rift within the party by announcing the sale of Postbank to the ANZ banking group for about NZ\$645 million (£231 million).

The final price is to be on the basis of Postbank's net tangible assets at the time of sale next March. The sale of Postbank, formed when the Post Office was corporatized, is specifically opposed by the Labour Party manifesto and Mr Stanley Rodger, the minister for state-owned enterprises, confirmed that some MPs had voted against the move at yesterday's caucus meeting.

The government decided not to accept any bids for the Bank of New Zealand, which is 84 per cent government-owned, as it did not consider the offers to be good enough.

The sales emphasize that the debt retirement programme, which aims to retire NZ\$14 billion in public debt by 1992, is likely to continue in spite of the sacking last week of Mr Roger Douglas, the

finance minister, who guided the government's economic reforms.

Mr Douglas was sacked by Mr David Lange, the prime minister, after a bitter, year-long feud over the pace of economic change.

Mr Douglas challenged Mr Lange for the party leadership at the caucus meeting, but lost by 38 votes to 15.

Panel urges curbs after Recruit share scandal

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

Responding to the controversy generated by the Recruit Cosmos stock market scandal, a Japanese finance ministry advisory panel has recommended tougher controls on stock transactions before the shares are sold to the public.

The proposals are aimed at curbing the common practice in Japan of making big, tax-free profits from the usually wide discrepancy between the price at which unlisted shares are offered privately to favoured parties and the price at

which they are later traded once the company's shares have been floated on the stock market.

The practice has been under fire ever since the Recruit scandal broke in July and put some of Japan's more curious stock market habits under closer scrutiny.

The recommendations, compiled by the Securities Exchange Council, were sent to Mr Noboru Takeshita, the Prime Minister, yesterday and are expected to be put into effect in April.

Johnson Matthey says platinum still favoured

By Colin Campbell

Johnson Matthey, the precious metals group attempting to soothe market nerves about the outlook for platinum demand, has emphasized that platinum will remain overwhelmingly the prime metal for use in autocatalysts.

The free market platinum price and, in turn, JM and other related platinum shares, have traded erratically this week in the wake of the statement by Ford, the United States car manufacturer, that it was experimenting with other metals for use in exhaust

emission control. The platinum price dropped sharply last Friday and was again weak on Monday, falling to \$517 an ounce.

Although the price has staged something of a recovery and was traded at about \$537 an ounce yesterday, traders admitted that sentiment remains fragile.

JM added that the stock market's reaction to the Ford announcement had been "exaggerated, and inconsistent with the technical possibilities."

President-elect appoints own nominees to key posts

Bush sends 'strong message' on deficit

From Bailey Morris Washington

President-elect George Bush has appointed two of his own nominees to the National Economic Commission to try to send a "strong message" to world financial markets of his intention to reduce the massive US budget deficit.

Mr Paul Laxalt, a friend of President Reagan, and Mr Thomas Ashley, a former Congressman and university colleague of Mr Bush, have been appointed to the 14-member commission.

It was created by Congress after the stock market crash to find a bipartisan solution to the budget deficit crisis.

"The swiftness with which I am making these appointments underscores the importance I place on the need to reduce the federal budget deficit," Mr Bush said.

But he clung stubbornly to his pledge not to raise new taxes as part of the solution, a promise he reneged when he

met US business leaders this week.

"There is going to be a battle ahead but I intend to hold the line on taxes," he said.

Mr Bush is known to be concerned over the reaction of financial markets to the budget battle likely to ensue after his inauguration next month.

He attempted to reassure markets by stating his intention of communicating frequently his deficit reduction plans. He said he would do his best to send frequent signals to financial markets, as they grappled with fears over rising rates.

Advisers to Mr Bush have indicated that he will press for very steep cuts in social programmes at the outset of the budget talks, and might even be prepared to accept across-the-board cuts of the sort which would be triggered under the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings law if a compromise cannot be reached. The latter would require big cuts in defence spending.

The commission, comprising an equal number of Democrats and Republicans, has had several tough internal battles,

which underscore the difficulty of avoiding a political deadlock over the budget.

Mr Robert Strauss, the Democratic co-chairman, has emphasized his view that a deficit solution cannot be reached without raising taxes. His Republican counterpart, Mr Drew Lewis, has suggested a programme to cut social security benefits for the wealthy as the centrepiece of his deficit-reduction plan. Neither proposal is supported by Mr Bush.

During the presidential election campaign, Mr Bush indicated he would pay little heed to the recommendation of the commission, which he described privately as a tax-raising panel.

His aides said it was unlikely he would take advantage of the two vacancies on the commission allocated to the incoming President.

But yesterday Mr Bush tried to put this speculation to rest. "I am looking forward to hearing from the commission and hearing their suggestions. I am not looking for a battle with them and there will not be one," he said.

DESIGN COMPETITION for the development of the

First Government House Site and adjacent sites

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

In 1788, only four months after the first European settlement on Australia's east coast, the colony's First Government House was built on a site which is now part of Sydney's Central Business District. To commemorate this event, and the Bicentenary of the settlement of the colony in 1788, the New South Wales Government is convening a major two stage design competition for the development of the site.

The competition will elicit designs of the highest quality which conserve and commemorate the historic remains and buildings and which provide for a significant and sympathetic commercial development of the remainder of the city block. The budget for the total project will be in excess of \$480 million.

The competition, leading to a commission to design and document the project is open to architects or associations of architects, one of whom is registered in the Commonwealth of Australia.

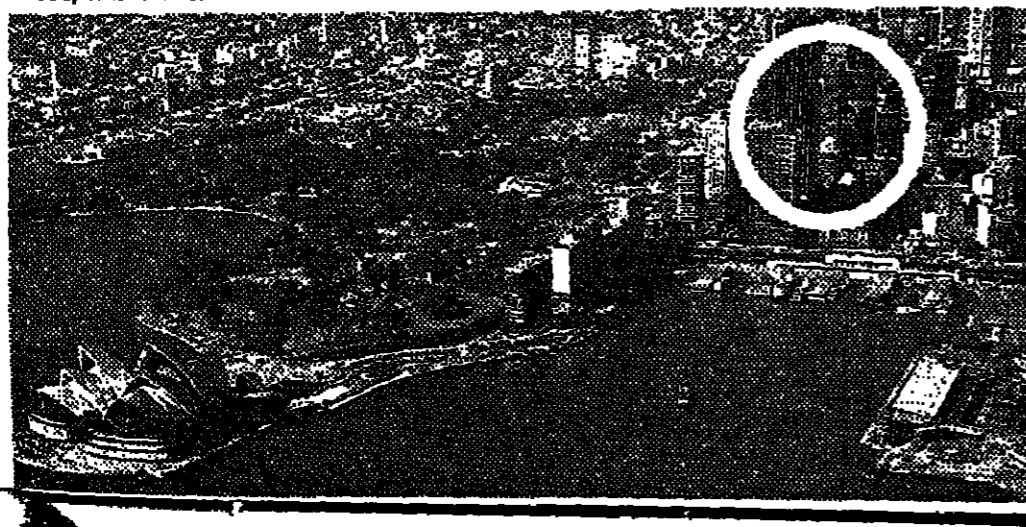
All enquiries to: Mr Brian Easton, Competition Registrar, First Government House Site Competition, C/- NSW Public Works Tender Board, Level 18, State Office Block, Phillip Street, Sydney, NSW 2000, AUSTRALIA. Telephone: (02) 228 5198. Fax: (02) 228 5176.

The competition is promoted jointly by the New South Wales State Government, the Council of the City of Sydney, the State Authorities Superannuation Board and Conreality Young Street Ltd Sydney.

The Assessors for the Competition are: Prof Peter McIntyre AO Chairman, Lindsay Kelly, Government Architect, Michael Smith, Sidney Londish, Fritz Stuber, Prof Isabel McBryde, Prof Peter Webber.

The first stage of the Design Competition closes on 21 February, 1989.

An information brochure is available from the Registrar. Alternatively, a Competition Kit containing the brief and supporting material will be issued upon receipt of a \$A100 Registration Fee. This advertisement is not part of the Design Brief.





# Delta and Hawker Siddeley link in £200m cable venture

By Our City Staff

Delta is establishing a joint company with Hawker Siddeley, in which both groups will pool their respective cable interests to give birth to a new combine with an annual turnover of at least £200 million.

Delta Crompton Cables is likely to be second in the £1.5 billion-a-year British cable market, currently led by BICC with domestic sales of £400 million. Ownership of Delta

Crompton will be in the ratio Delta 64 per cent; Hawker Siddeley 36 per cent. Hawker Siddeley has the option to increase its shareholding to 49 per cent in 1992 by subscribing for additional shares on a profit-related basis.

As a joint force, the new company will be able to tackle opportunities on a European scale and has been

formed with 1992 in mind, both companies said. The new company will come into existence on January 1, and Delta will exercise management control of the joint venture through the provision of a shareholders' agreement.

Combined profits of the two operations together are estimated at £23.4 million with net assets of £75 million, based on the last audited

accounts. Delta's asset contribution is being made out of its electrical equipment division, and involves the bulk - but not all - of its cable operations.

Delta's electrical equipment division, which additionally includes circuit protection and control operations, achieved a turnover of £291.4 million in the financial year ended January 2, 1988, and pre-interest profits of £33.4 million. Of the profits and turnover contributions to the division, cables were responsible for 60 per cent. Delta's results for the 1988 financial year are expected shortly.

The two operations brought together in Delta Crompton will involve nine different sites, and some rationalization is expected.

Delta recently bought for £33 million (£18 million) the US cable manufacturer FL Surprenant, not included in the Hawker deal.

Times, page 24

## STC wins joint \$400m contract

STC, the electronics group, is sharing with NEC of Japan a \$400 million (£221 million) contract to supply a fibre optic cable to be laid in the north Pacific Ocean (Derek Harris writes).

The 5,875 mile-long cable, the longest continuous under-sea cabling ever installed, will link the United States with Japan, and is due to be completed by the end of 1990. A letter of intent on the

contract has been signed by the co-purchasers, Britain's Cable and Wireless, International Digital Communications of Japan and Pacific Telecom Cable of the US.

STC's share of the joint contract includes 3,500 miles of cable, as well as some terminal and supervisory equipment. The cable will be partly supplied by STC's Southampton factory, but some will also come from a

new STC factory in Portland, Oregon, which is due to start operations in the middle of next year. The other equipment being supplied by STC will be made at its British factories.

Dr Saul Lanyado, the managing director of STC Submarine Systems, the STC subsidiary involved in the contract, said: "This brings our order book to more than \$500 million."

## Piccadilly Radio pays £13m for Midlands

By Colin Narborough

Piccadilly Radio, the independent local radio contractor for Greater Manchester, has made an agreed £13.1 million offer for Midlands Radio Holdings, which operates in the Birmingham and Coventry area. The merged company will be called Piccadilly Communications.

In independent radio's biggest merger, Midlands shareholders are being offered 11 new Piccadilly voting shares plus 33 new Piccadilly non-voting shares for every four new shares in Midlands.

Mr Colin Walters, the Piccadilly chief executive who will head the merged company, sees the tie-up leading to "healthy profit growth" in a sector which the Government expects will provide very good growth potential.

The move takes Piccadilly into the top three in independent radio and will give it 13.7 per cent of the market compared with the 15 per cent ceiling contained in the Independent Broadcasting Authority's guidelines.

Mr Walters foresees plenty of scope for expansion in radio-linked services, such as sponsored networked programmes.

Based on Tuesday's 165p for Piccadilly non-voting shares, each new Midlands share is valued at £18.60. A special 21p dividend will also be paid on new shares.

There is a cash alternative of £13.53 for each new Midlands share.

Piccadilly said it had received irrevocable undertakings to accept the share offer or cash alternative from holders of 51.8 per cent of Midlands.

In the year to September 30, Piccadilly had a pre-tax profit of £1.44 million on £9.39 million turnover. Midlands, which emerged in April from a merger between BRMB Holdings and Midland Community Radio, reported a pre-tax profit of £1.1 million on a turnover of £5.1 million.



Confident: Leslie Hancock, executive chairman of Arlen

## Modest rise for Arlen

By Our City Staff

Arlen, the electrical products group whose March year-end results were below market expectations, lifted interim pre-tax profits to end-September from £754,000 to £797,000. Net earnings were 4.69p a share against 5.13p.

Turnover was £8.53 million compared with £6.78 million

The company remains confident, although it admits that Government policy may influence market activity in the medium term. However, recent steps taken by Arlen have laid the ground work for growth.

The shares stood at 92p yesterday.

## Friendly lifts hotel total to 13

By Our City Staff

Friendly Hotels, the group being built up by Mr Henry Edwards, has acquired two three-star hotels in Scotland, bringing the number in the group to 13.

The purchases - from Stakis, the Glasgow hotel to nursing home group - are the 70-room Station Hotel in Ayr, Strathclyde, and the 50-room Commodore in Edinburgh. No price was disclosed.

Mr Edwards had already built up then sold Centre Hotels and Comfort Hotels, the national groups, to Bass and Ladbroke respectively, before starting to develop the Friendly chain in such centres as Birmingham, Glasgow and Hull.

He has also added the refurbished Connaught Rooms - renamed the New Connaught Rooms - to the Eccleston in London.

Two three-star hotels are under construction in Norwich and Caen, Normandy.

Friendly is also involved in the construction of the first British floating hotels - or floatels. The first is due to open next year on a riverside site in Northwich, Cheshire.

## London Life votes invalid

Resolutions passed to facilitate the proposed merger of London Life, Britain's oldest mutual insurer, with the Australian Mutual Provident Society were ruled invalid by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

Three judges decided that the decision of Mr Oliver Dawson, London Life's president, to adjourn a stormy meeting of London Life policyholders at the Barbican Centre, London, on October 19 to the Cafe Royal, because so many people turned up was unreasonable and invalid.

The resolutions passed were therefore invalid.

Mr Julian Byng, a London Life policyholder, of Wrotham Park, Barnet, Herts, challenged the validity of Mr Dawson's decision, claiming a company could not lawfully change a venue without giving a fresh notice of the meeting.

Law Report, page 26

## Reed deal

Reed International is buying the publishing rights and assets of Equity Publishing Corp, of Orford, New Hampshire, and its subsidiary, Equity de Puerto Rico, of Hato Rey, Puerto Rico.

## BET takeover

BET has acquired Ships Entertainment Systems of California. SES will merge with BET's company, Walport, to form the world's leading supplier of film and TV entertainment services to the marine and off-shore industries.

## Profits slump

Amalgamated Financial Investments, a property investment company, has seen profits more than halve from £1.33 million to £429,000 in the year to end-September. Earnings per share are 0.87p (4.78p).

## Payout raised

Electronic Data Processing is paying a 1.725p final dividend for the year to end-September, making 2.375p for the year against 2.1p. Pre-tax profits are £1.37 million against £1.35 million. Earnings per share are 11.77p against 11.97p.

## Kelt claim

The Kelt Energy-Carless bid battle rumbles on. Kelt now claims to speak for 76.85 per cent of the Carless equity, but is still not declaring the offer wholly unconditional.

# Courts leap clumsily into troubled waters

The statutory water companies' attempt to kick the state water authorities out of play has backfired badly. With the exception of Southern, and for a brief moment Northumbrian, most of the 10 authorities had kept out of the scramble for control of the statutory companies, which supply a quarter of the nation's water. The legal position was uncertain, as was their financial authority to use what is still taxpayers' money. Other authority chairmen, such as Roy Watts of Thames, will be scanning the High Court judgement as carefully as the principals to see how far the rules of the water war have changed.

It may not prove as clearcut as first impressions suggested. For instance, the judges came out against Southern using its minority stake to frustrate a merger between the West Kent and East Surrey companies. It is also far from clear that authorities could take over water companies as opposed to buying stakes in them. Moreover, Southern, by getting in early, bought its minority stakes in three companies for what now looks peanuts.

The cost of buying now would have more impact on authorities' financial limits.

The outcome is likely to be a more intense jockeying for position during the purdah of the privatization Bill's com-

mittee stage, leading to a series of stand-offs between the authorities and the three French companies.

This will come first in the Southern area where SAUR has made agreed bids for the West Kent and Mid Sussex companies, which have joint management. Through its bizarre alliance with the Australian Duncan Saville, Southern has control of about 42 per cent of West Kent and 32 per cent of Mid Sussex. SAUR will pursue its bids, but success looks remote.

At the opposite end of the country, Lyonnaise des Eaux has some last-minute alarms persuading institutions to accept its offers for Newcastle & Gateshead Water and Sunderland and South Shields Water, which closed yesterday. The Northumbrian Water Authority, in whose area the two companies supply more than half the water, was rapidly reconsidering its position last night, but was almost certainly too late. It set off the agreed French bids by buying 1 per cent stakes in the two companies, later sold, but has bitterly fought the French takeover.

Some insurance companies, having seen their stakes multiply in value, may now decide to wait for a complete free-for-all after privatization in a year's time. The activities of both the water authorities and water companies pension funds should also prove interesting.

## Hard to figure out the truth

How on earth can you take sensible economic policy decisions when you do not know where you have been, let alone where you are or where you are going? The question posed by the all-party Treasury Select Committee in its latest report on the Chancellor's autumn statement is both topical and pertinent in a week when the Central Statistical Office has had effectively to abandon one of its measures of growth in the economy.

The "appalling discrepancies" in the national accounts, to which the Committee refers, have been around for years. But recently they have become worse, partly perhaps because the parts of the economy more difficult to measure, such as the service sector, have become steadily more important.

The Committee notes that the Cabinet Office team set up to consider the reliability of statistics has now reported, but its findings have not yet been made

public. One is beginning to wonder if they are going to be made public because of the potential costs of achieving any significant improvement.

Ministers will certainly need to be very clear about the gains to be derived from spending a lot more money and imposing burdens on business before they try to produce a better guide to the economy. But they should also reflect on the costs of getting policy decisions wrong on the basis of faulty data. The inflationary cost to the economy of the stimulus in the 1972 Budget at a time when, unbeknown to ministers, demand was already recovering was huge. Chancellors, as Mr Lawson says, must use their judgement, but that judgement will be better informed by more reliable statistics.

The judgement needed now is how to keep policy tight enough to squeeze out inflation without tipping the economy into a recession. Mr Lawson should err on the side of caution.

## Advertising angers Minorco

By Colin Campbell

Minorco, the Luxembourg-based group led by Sir Michael Edwards in pursuit of Consolidated Gold Fields, has laid three formal complaints about ConsGold's current advertising campaign in leading national newspapers.

Letters have been sent to the Takeover Panel, the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, and the Securities and Investments Board, objecting to what Minorco regards as "misleading and exaggerated claims" about ConsGold interests.

Objections have also been lodged with Ernst & Whinney, ConsGold's auditors, and calls have been made for ConsGold

to issue a correction immediately.

"As a 29 per cent shareholder, and therefore also sharing 29 per cent of the costs, we object to this waste of shareholders' money," Minorco said.

"With a full-page advert in The Times costing £14,000 a page, and other double spread adverts costing a fortune, ConsGold might well have spent £1 million already."

At the heart of Minorco's complaint is ConsGold's claim, in a bar chart, about gold reserves, which Sir Michael claims is "completely misleading." ConsGold also speaks of

"our Porgera" project in Papua New Guinea, which Minorco says, implies ConsGold both owns all or the majority of the project, and has management control. "Not true," said Sir Michael. ConsGold's beneficial interest in Porgera is only 16 per cent.

Thirdly, ConsGold says: "By 1993 our South African 'Northern' development is projected to be the world's fifth largest platinum producer."

Minorco points out that ConsGold has a 39 per cent stake in Northern - through a direct 13 per cent interest and through a 38 per cent stake in Gold Fields of South Africa.

## Bond's street in W8

Despite Tiny Rowland's description of brewing tycoon Alan Bond's empire as "technically bankrupt," the Australian entrepreneur and patron of the art of yachting - who is still sitting on 21 per cent of Lonrho - is, I hear, in the process of buying himself a £6 million home in London. Believed to be unhappy with the £11 million, 2,000-acre Oxfordshire estate he bought just three months ago, Bond has now opted for two adjacent private homes in Kensington. Between them their attractions include a heated indoor swimming-pool complete with sauna, jacuzzi and Turkish bath, nine bedrooms and almost as many bathrooms. The two adjoining freeholds are in Cotswold Gardens, W8, and boast a marble entrance hall, an enormous conservatory and ornate decorations and furnishings - as well as a private lift in each property. Maskells of Chelsea, which handled the sale, refuses to disclose any further details. It also declined to confirm the price paid for the properties, although a spokesman was prepared to admit that they "had been sold to a prominent international businessman for less than £7 million." When pressed as to whether the acquisition had been made by Bond personally or by one of his companies, the Maskells man would only deliver a stern "no comment." However, other sources suggest that the latter is the purchaser.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Eat, drink, but be wary

It must have been quite a send-off... the celebration that followed the news that James Walling, a director of UK investment at Wardley Investment Services, had been offered a new job - he is off to work for Cazenove in Geneva - prompted Wardley's managing director, the Earl of Buckinghamshire, to put pen to paper. In a stern memo, The Festive Season, he said: "I expect all staff to maintain

moderation in their celebrations over the Christmas and New Year season. In particular, drinking at luncheon should be carefully controlled. There is no need to take extended lunch breaks, and if you wish to celebrate I suggest you do it in the evening. Our Christmas party on the boat is also fast approaching and although we all wish to enjoy ourselves, some decorum should be maintained."

### Going public

When Robert Montague, chairman of Tiphook, the container and trailer rental company, agreed to have his picture taken for the release of his firm's interim figures the other day, he little imagined



### Shocking filler

At last, someone has invented a "crass index" of grossly over-priced Christmas presents. It is the brainchild of Raymond DeVoe, a top strategist at the US broker, Legg, Mason, Wood, Walker. Top of DeVoe's list are a bottle of Chateau Margaux, on sale for \$250,000 (£138,000), and 250 Andy Warhol watches selling for a mere \$18,000 each.

## Common ground

Forty City veterans gathered at the Waldorf Hotel for lunch yesterday and reminisced about the good old days. The reunion of former Phillips & Drew employees was organized by Michael Shirley-Dale, these days a financial salesman at County NatWest. So eager were many of those attending to renew old acquaintances that they had taken the entire day off work, rather than have to dash back to the Square Mile after lunch. P&D's reputation as a training ground for the rest of the City was, I am informed, upheld, with Hoare Govett, Warburg, James Capel, ANZ MacCaughan, BZW, Marshall & Co, Savory Mills, Pannure, Nomura, Chase, Pro-Bache, County and Baring among those security firms represented, as well as half-a-dozen fund management businesses. Several, on the other hand, had left the City altogether, although, sadly, one or two of those were said to be reluctantly "testing" after P&D's night of the long knives in the summer. A handful of current P&D employees were brave enough to attend this "traitors' hall" where the toast was drunk to "the golden age of Phillips & Drew." And, as if to prove the point, the lunch is now set to become an annual event. It should grow bigger and bigger.

Yet another evocative car number plate sighting in the Square Mile - a Mercedes convertible sports car bearing the delightful license plate HOP IN.

Carol Leonard

# British Syphon Industries plc

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

To Shareholders intending to accept the recommended cash offers by

## Britannia plc

At the first closing date of 16 December 1988, Britannia held rights over approximately 30 per cent of the ordinary shares and 79 per cent of the preference shares of British Syphon.

The recommended cash offers have been extended until 3pm on 6 January 1989.

ACT NOW TO ACCEPT THE ORDINARY AND PREFERENCE OFFERS

Shareholders are reminded that Forms of Acceptance should be lodged with The Royal Bank of Scotland plc, Registrar's Department, by 3pm on Friday 6 January 1989.

All enquiries to:  
The Royal Bank of Scotland plc  
Registrar's Department  
Tel: 031 442 4111 Ext. 26314

WALL STREET

New York (Reuters) - Wall Street shares showed little early change, traders having already balanced books for the year. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 2 points at 2,168 at one stage.

Frankfurt - Share prices sank as investors took profit. The DAX index slipped 12.03 to close at 1,321.01.

Table with columns for Dec 20 and Dec 19, listing various stocks and their prices.

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OECD forecasts dash hope of late rally in share prices

Any remaining hope of some last-minute Christmas shopping by investors evaporated after a warning about the British economy by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

The OECD's latest forecast - that inflation is unlikely to fall next year and the trade deficit will grow wider - effectively scuppered hopes of a late rally by share prices after the uncertainty of the past few weeks.

The FT-SE 100, having traded in narrow limits throughout the day, closed 4.8 lower at 1,772.6. But selling pressure was light with dealers encouraged by the undertone.

Consolidated Gold Fields climbed 20p to £12.59, helped by activity in the traded options market. One bull of the stock is reported to have tried to buy a large number of call options, but in the conditions may have only completed 50 contracts, equivalent to 50,000 shares.

Exchange's computerized trading system. Much of this was absorbed by bed and breakfasting, enabling fund managers to establish year-end tax losses. The narrower FT-30 closed 3.3 down at 1,435.

The news that talks between Rolls-Royce and NEI had broken down, after they failed to agree terms about establishing a working relationship, caught those dealers who had been expecting a bid for NEI of 140p a share on the hop.

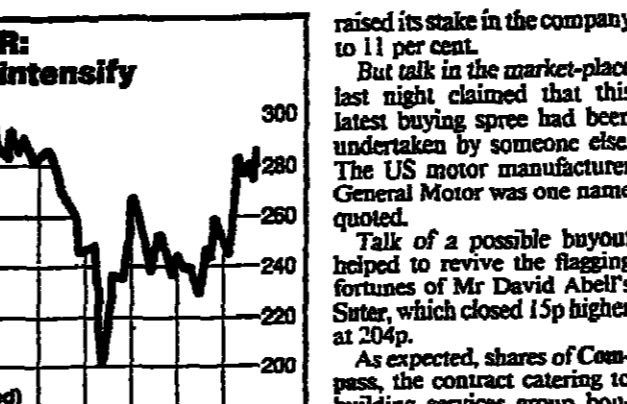
Market-makers responded by marking the shares sharply lower. But after dipping to 108p, the price rallied on hopes that Rolls-Royce will now launch a hostile bid. It closed 11p down at 115.5p.

Ultramarc jumped 9p to 286p, after 289p, on a turnover of more than 3.5 million shares as takeover hopes intensified.

There is talk that Novoco and Unigesco of Canada, the 4.3 per cent shareholders backed by Banque Paribas, have had discussions with Sir Ron Brierley, who owns a 14.1 per cent stake, and Sovereign

STOCK MARKET

ULTRAMARC bid hopes intensify



Oil, with 2 per cent, about launching a break-up bid. Speculators have been dreaming of a possible bid since the Canadian consortium's interest was revealed this month.

The cash-rich Mr Marcel Dutil, head of Novoco, is said to be eager to get his hands on Ultramar's eastern Canadian retail operations and is prepared to bid 330p-plus a share to do so.

Shares of Camford Engineering, the automotive engineer, surged 19p to 195p, after touching 198p. The company says an attempt is being made to build up a substantial holding and is urging shareholders to sit tight.

On Tuesday, Markheath Securities, publicly quoted investment arm of the Australian businessman, Mr John Spalvins, announced it had raised its stake in the company to 11 per cent.

But talk in the market-place last night claimed that this latest buying spree had been undertaken by someone else. The US motor manufacturer General Motors was one name quoted.

Talk of a possible buyout helped to revive the flagging fortunes of Mr David Abell's Sinter, which closed 15p higher at 204p.

As expected, shares of Compass, the contract catering to building services group, bought out from Grand Metropolitan last year, opened at 245p a share by Lazard Brothers, the merchant bank, they opened

BICC climbed 8 1/2p to 376p after a visit by Hoare 'Govett, its broker. The meeting confirmed Hoare's original view about the company's prospects. It is looking for pre-tax profits in the current year to rise from £128 million to £147 million, followed by £172 million next time.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Table listing various options with columns for Call, Put, and other details.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

Table listing traditional options with columns for Call, Put, and other details.

Law Report December 22 1988 Court of Appeal

Adjourned business at extraordinary London Life meeting was not valid

Byng v London Life Association Ltd and Another. Before Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor, Lord Justice Mustill and Lord Justice Woolf.

An extraordinary general meeting of London Life Association Ltd held at Cinema 1 of the Barbican Centre on the morning of October 19, 1988 was not validly adjourned and proceedings purportedly conducted at a meeting at the Cafe Royal in the afternoon were invalid and of no effect.

The Court of Appeal so declared in allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Julian Michael Edmund Byng, against a decision of Mr Justice Vinelott dismissing his action (The Times November 17).

Mr Byng, a member of London Life, the first defendant, claimed that Oliver Dawson, the second defendant, had not validly adjourned the meeting in the morning and that accordingly all business conducted at the purported adjourned meeting in the afternoon was invalidly conducted.

The general meeting was held to pass a special resolution to amend the memorandum of association of London Life to include a general power to transfer the business of London Life to facilitate a merger of long-term business with Australia Mutual Provident Society.

The meeting had to be adjourned because of inadequate space for the number of people who tried to attend the cinema and an audio-visual link to overflow rooms was deficient.

It was the very purpose of the power to facilitate the presence of those entitled to debate and vote on a resolution at a meeting where such debate and voting was possible, that was inconsistent with the view that the exercise of the power could only be impugned on the grounds of lack of good faith.

The chairman's decision must also be taken reasonably with a view to facilitating the purpose for which the power existed. Accordingly, the impact of the proposed adjournment on those entitled to attend the original meeting and the other members had to be a central factor in considering the validity of the chairman's decision to adjourn.

There was nothing to suggest that Mr Dawson took into account the fact that there was no absolute necessity to obtain approval of the merger until over five months after the meeting. Nor was there anything to suggest that he appreciated that those who could not be at the Cafe Royal would not only be unable to speak but would be unable to vote even by proxy.

The purpose of members attending meetings was to enable them not only to vote but also to take part in the debate. Those present in the morning could have been present and spoken in the debate if it had continued at the Barbican even if they could not have waited until the vote was taken. By the adjournment to the Cafe Royal they were precluded from even taking part in the debate.

In those circumstances the chairman's decision to adjourn to the Cafe Royal on the same afternoon was not valid on the ground either that he failed to take into account relevant factors or that the decision was Wednesbury unreasonable ([1948] 1 KB 223).

If the time factor had been considered that the merger proposal could not have been carried through at all unless there was an immediate decision on the resolution before the meeting the matter might have been different.

Avdel advertisement with logo and text: Further message to all Avdel shareholders. Textron has now announced an offer of 92p for your Avdel Ordinary Shares. This offer is not now conditional on Banner's acceptance. The Board of Avdel intends to recommend Textron's offer.



THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust information with columns for Unit Name, Bid, Offer, and Change. Includes sections for various fund managers and specific unit names.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Table of unlisted securities with columns for High/Low, Bid, Offer, and Change. Lists various companies and their security details.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table of investment trusts with columns for Unit Name, Bid, Offer, and Change. Lists various investment trust units.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table of foreign exchange rates for various currencies, including Sterling, Euro, and others.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Table of dollar spot rates for different countries and currencies.

MONEY MARKETS

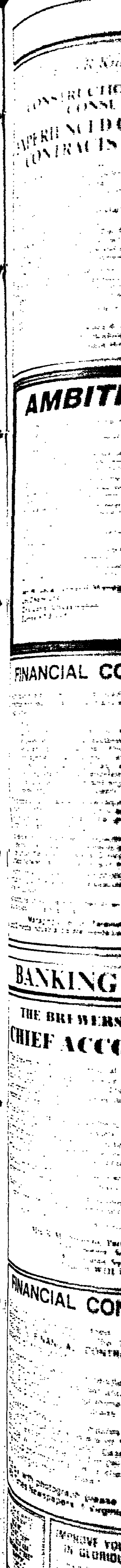
Table of money market rates, including Treasury bills and other short-term instruments.

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %

Table of Euro money deposit rates for various banks and terms.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices for various goods like oil, sugar, and metals.



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The successful applicant would be required to revise and restructure the accounting systems of the company and its engineering subsidiaries, execute and also co-ordinate the groups administration functions. Control credit and purchasing.

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Applications should be submitted in writing together with testimonials and copies of qualifications to:

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Soviets put the emphasis on science instead of spontaneity in the search for sporting excellence

Getting it right with the levers

The new approach to selection and training in Soviet sport places great emphasis on the changing structure of muscle and bone and the understanding of how the body responds to increasing resistance, or loading. This will be insufficient in pre-selecting talent to gain gold medals.

Such knowledge is not unknown in the West; anthropometric techniques are used with great accuracy to determine the adult height of the very young intake to the Royal Ballet School.

It is not surprising that a society that has 40 boarding schools and many centres of excellence devoted to developing sport talent should be pushing at the frontiers of sports science.

What interests me most is one of the conclusions the Soviets have come to on the way. The deep, if erroneous belief of Marxists is that Marxism and dialectical materialism is truly scientific and is the way to all truth and real progress.

In sporting terms, the body is an arrangement of levers (limbs) which have local power sources (muscles). Levers are of three orders and the positions of the fulcrum, the point of application of the force and the resistance to be overcome, determine which order they are in.

Among other things, the Soviets will carefully compare and record the distance of muscle attachments from the joints, the exact position of the muscle attachments at the fixed end, and how and where muscles pass over more than one joint; this, together with muscle fibre composition and cross-sectional areas.

They will also carefully examine the effect of various loadings on bone and muscle growth. Some lever arrangements favour strength and others speed of movement, so it is easy to understand their preference



Peter Coe (left), father and coach of Sebastian Coe, examines the changing trends in Soviet sports science, as reported by David Miller in The Times this month

for working on field events like jumping and throwing. This is also of great interest but — and it is a big but — there are many more variables to be considered in running, and some seem to be quite contradictory.

The sprints can have a little Ernest Obeng against a big Carl Lewis or Ben Johnson; middle distance has matched the smaller Sebastian Coe against the giant Alberto Juantorena; marathon running matches sturdy mesomorphs, like Rob de Castella, with the frail ecomorphs of Ethiopia, who are equally successful.

Physiologically, it is not any easier. For example, distance runners need a high VO2 uptake — around 80 millilitres per kilogram per minute. But Derek Clayton, once the world's fastest marathon runner, got by only on 69ml/kg/min because he had an incredibly high efficiency.

Providing proper training to develop the different energy systems that runners need, and the ability to buffer acidosis, along with the greater need for detailed profiling of blood chemistry — all of which are more important to the runner — add up to more variables and greater uncertainty with runners. It is very confusing; it is not something around which you can formulate success with any degree of certainty.

I do not underestimate the role of the physiologist in the development of world class athletes; otherwise I

would not have been working closely with Professor David E. Martin, of Atlanta, for some years now. But it is not an accident that the title of our book, to be published shortly, makes reference to the art as well as the science of training. He, too, knows the problems; he also coaches elite athletes and knows what the "war" is like when working in the "trenches".

The Soviets have concluded that there are too many variables in predicting running performance and they are safer with, and are therefore concentrating on, field events. Have they forgotten that emulation can play a big part in motivating runners?

I did for Australia and Herb Elliott, and we have been lucky in Britain to have had such a long line of successful milers to carry the torch — but that can easily come to an end.

It is now a long time indeed since there was significant success in middle and distance running in the Soviet Union to act as an inspiration, unlike the record in the field events.

I also wonder just how much the obsession with science only has contributed to the universal problem of drug abuse in sport.

Oh dear! Eight years ago in the book, *Running and Fitness*, I wrote that one of the problems of modern society was that it sought a technological solution to every problem and that this was quite simply not enough.

When Soviet research has constructed the ideal model for each event, has taken all the

biomechanical measurements of successful athletes and put them in a data bank, all that they will have is a very long list of the parts. But, unfortunately for them, and this is never more true than of human beings, there is much more to the successful performer than mere physical statistics.

Having run through the data bank and then their personnel files and found the man or woman who most closely fits the ideal profile, the researchers will still not know what they have. Put simply, what if the possessor of the ideal profile cannot jump — or run? And even if he can, is he a winner? However clever scientists and coaches claim to be, identifying talent is always from hindsight.

That very vital spark, that little something extra, the magical ingredient has to show itself to be recognized. What is critical is how early it can be spotted, not how early it can be predicted — if it ever can be. Time is needed for a slow and careful development of the whole person; only a holistic approach will achieve the maximum results.

I do not deny the value of their research — I only wish the same co-ordinated research and attention to physical and physiological detail was available and exercised in Britain — but when areas of uncertainty are encountered in this research, they should not be avoided or used to account for failure; they must be researched even further.

Plain analytical thinking will reveal gaps in plans and activities but not always the solutions. At the European Coaches' Conference in 1983, I spent some time with the Soviet delegation and commented upon the great success they were having with their women athletes as opposed to their men. They replied that the women were more amenable than men to strict training and the men would not always do what they were told; a reply I found not very convincing from a society

that is not all that unfamiliar with some fairly strong persuasion.

The success of the Soviet women, and also those of East Germany, has, in no small part, been due to shrewdly identifying a soft area of performance and thus one with a great potential for improvement. For various reasons, mainly socio-economic, women have, in the main, under-achieved and not maximized their abilities.

If the ultimate goal is a big gold medal tally for national prestige, then it makes economic sense to put the effort into areas which have less variables and are more likely to produce success. But failure is something more than just not succeeding; it is also an opportunity to find out what is wrong.

While the Soviets apply psychology to their coaching and training, I feel they have such a quasi-religious belief in "science" that they think they have only to follow the book and all the rules and success will come. Alas, not true; some improvements will be produced but not necessarily great winners.

A holistic approach is a necessity for the full development of an athlete because of the many more variables, mental as well as physical, that are the runner's lot. Coaching and training must look outside the confines of the research laboratory to develop and enhance the burning desire to be the best in whatever is the chosen field of endeavour (having, of course, first recognised that essential ingredient in the successful). Today a great career in running needs a special ambience and a firm but sensitive approach from the coach.

Of one thing I am certain: the great and long-lasting champion is a great individual doing his own thing in his own way and not the product of some collective will. Happily, at the highest level, the triumph still belongs to the individual and it is achieved by him and not the system.

FOOTBALL

Disciplinarians on trial in case against Dennis

By Dennis Siguy

The credibility of the disciplinary procedures in football, as well as the career of Mark Dennis, the Queen's Park Rangers left back and club representative for the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), come under intense scrutiny at Lancaster Gate today when the player faces a charge of bringing the game into disrepute.



Dennis dismissed 12 times

Dennis, aged 27, has been dismissed 12 times in his 10 years as a player with Birmingham City, Southampton and Queen's Park Rangers, and cautioned 68 times. He has already faced five disrepute charges.

In the wake of the criticism of the verdicts in the cases of John Fashanu and Viv Anderson, and the likelihood of similar conflicting evidence in the members of the disciplinary committee, who will not be announced until today, will be under a fierce spotlight, particularly as Dennis's future in the game could be under issue with a severe sentence.

Dennis was sent off in a reserve match against Fulham on December 6 for spitting at an opponent, and is now under an automatic three-match suspension for that offence. Leo Donnellan, the Fulham player, is similarly banned for his dismissal for retaliating.

Peter Shorevee, the assistant manager at Loftus Road, will accompany Dennis to the hearing. Two directors, Tony Ingham and Peter Ellis, who were 10 yards from the incident, will support Dennis by saying they did not see him spit. Dennis vehemently denies the allegation.

The referee, Colin Peake, a policeman from Gloucester, has been called to Lancaster Gate. His report on the incident will accompany Dennis to the hearing. Two directors, Tony Ingham and Peter Ellis, who were 10 yards from the incident, will support Dennis by saying they did not see him spit. Dennis vehemently denies the allegation.

Earlier this year Dennis was suspended for 33 days, which was changed to an eight-match ban on appeal, for bringing the

game into disrepute after being sent off against Tottenham Hotspur. The late David Bullstrode, then the chairman of Queen's Park Rangers, made it clear afterwards that he would not defend Dennis in the future if the player did anything that brought the game into disrepute.

When Dennis was subsequently stabbed in the early hours following the annual PFA dinner, the club decided against action as it was felt he was the innocent party in the incident.

With Bullstrode's death, and the recent decision by Rangers to repeat a ban imposed on Dennis after the stabbing, the club has now asked him to play in the Littlewoods Cup tie at Wimbledon and against Everton before his present suspension, the reaction of Trevor Francis, the newly-appointed player-manager, to the disciplinary committee will be faced by a "crime sheet" dating back to December 1978.

Dennis was dismissed by Southampton for indiscipline, but reinstated by the Football League on appeal. Jim Smith, then the manager in the interim, signed him for £50,000. Because of injuries and suspension, Dennis has been limited to 19 League games in a season and a half with Rangers.

Today is a watershed for Dennis, possibly also for the disciplinarians at Lancaster Gate.

United to consider an appeal

By Ian Ross

Manchester United are considering appealing against the one-match suspension and £750 fine imposed on Viv Anderson, the England defender, by the Football Association's disciplinary committee on Tuesday.

Anderson, along with John Fashanu, the Wimbledon forward, was found guilty of misconduct and bringing the game into disrepute after an incident in the players' tunnel at Flogh Lane on November 2.

Fashanu received a three-match suspension and a £2,000 fine after the inquiry found him to be guilty of punching Anderson.

While Alex Ferguson, the United manager, declined to comment on the inquiry's findings, he said yesterday, Ken Warret, the club secretary, confirmed that the possibility of an appeal was being discussed.

An emergency board meeting will be convened at Old Trafford this afternoon when Martin Edwards, the United chairman, returns to Manchester from London. The club was so determined to ensure that its image was not tarnished that it took a five-man delegation to the inquiry in London.

Allegation of abuse by Bailey

John Bailey, the Bristol City full back, could face disciplinary action after he was reported by police for swearing at a ball-boy during the FA Cup tie against Aldershot on Tuesday.

Bailey, a former Newcastle United and Everton player, was allegedly heard shouting abuse at the youngster in the last 15 minutes of the game by members of the 3,800-strong crowd and a club steward.

Minutes later, Shutt equalized for Bristol City to take the game into extra time, but after the additional half-hour had left the game undecided in a 2-2 draw, police went to the away dressing room to question Bailey and the referee, David Axcell.

Chief Inspector Alan Emmott, of Hampshire Police, said statements had been taken from members of the crowd.

After an hour of talks with Bailey and the Bristol manager, Joe Jordan, Emmott said: "As a result of complaints from a number of spectators when making an investigation, it is alleged that abusive language was used by John Bailey to one of the ball-boys. The referee has been informed and will take the appropriate action he feels necessary."

SKIING: SWISS CHAMPION MAKES RARE MISCALCULATION TO REMAIN BEHIND GIRARDELLI IN WORLD CUP

Zurbriggen's cautious run hands Bittner surprise win

From Iain Macleod, St Anton

Firmin Zurbriggen the World Cup overall champion, yesterday squandered his opportunity to assume the leadership of this season's competition when he failed to capitalize on one of the best, first runs seen in a slalom for years with an over-cautious second run.

Drawn in the No. 1 position, the Swiss weaved his way down the 68-gate course with such swiftness and precision that an eventual 0.69sec lead seemed impregnable.

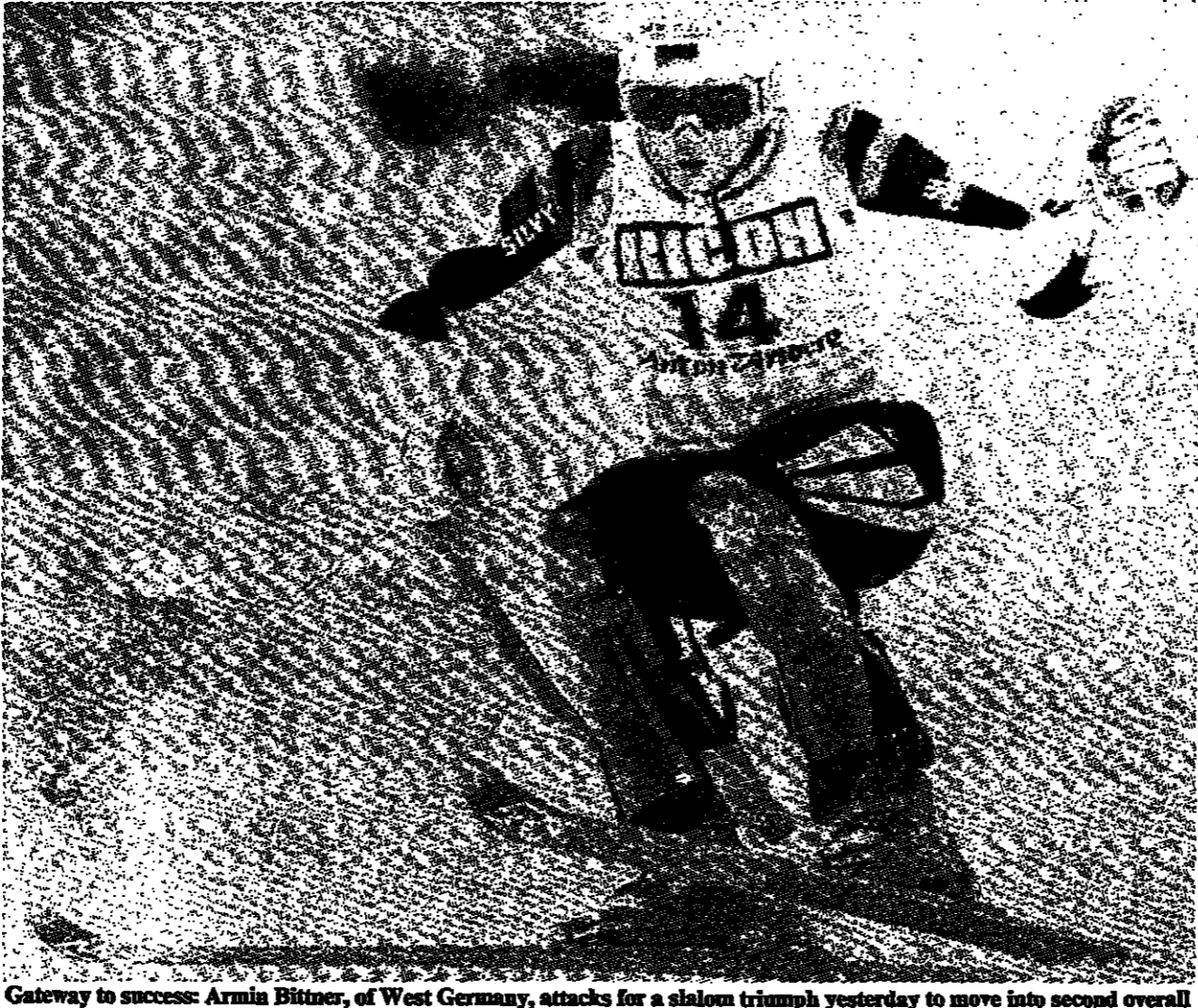
Armin Bittner, of West Germany, had other ideas. Third on the first round, his fate was only partially in his own hands. He skirted the bottom part of the second run superbly and then watched as the two men above him finished. Bernhard GSTREIN, of Austria, discovered a thirteenth place at the intermediate time was too great a handicap to overcome and had to be content with second place.

Zurbriggen, however, was another matter. His charge on

the first run was so smooth and controlled that it seemed the third slalom victory of his career was a formality. Yet maintaining such brilliance, even when your name is Zurbriggen, is no easy task. A dismal seventeenth place at the intermediate time said it all; he improved marginally on the bottom half but fifteenth was good enough only to claim third place overall.

The slalom was brought forward by one day as the 4ft of snow which had fallen the previous night left the organizers with insufficient time to prepare a downhill course. The downhill will now be held at 1pm today.

RESULTS: 1. A. Bittner (FRG), 1min 42.97sec; 2. B. GSTREIN (Austria), 1:44.15; 3. Zurbriggen (Switzerland), 1:44.84; 4. P. Furlan (FRG), 1:44.85; 5. T. Stangassinger (Austria), 1:45.52; 6. J. Nelson (FRG), 1:45.53; 7. P. Accola (Switzerland), 1:45.58; 8. H. Strub (Austria), 1:45.59; 9. R. Suter (Switzerland), 1:45.59; 10. M. Tomaszewski (Poland), 1:45.59; 11. S. Gasser (Austria), 1:46.52; 12. P. Windl (FRG), 1:46.06; 13. M. Tomaszewski (Poland), 1:46.06; 14. F. Bacc (FRG), 1:46.52; 15. R. Prameter (FRG), 1:46.52. WORLD CUP: Slalom 1. M. Girardelli (Switzerland), 1:45.52; 2. Zurbriggen, 1:45.53; 3. G. Tomba, 1:45.53; 4. A. Tomba, 1:45.53; 5. Furlan, 1:45.53; 6. P. Müller (Switzerland), 1:45.53.



Gateway to success: Armin Bittner, of West Germany, attacks for a slalom triumph yesterday to move into second overall

HOCKEY

Khalsa beat Slough to maintain challenge

By Sydney Friskin

Khalsa maintained their challenge in the Poundstretcher National League as they played outdoors for Reading, scored four of Slough's goals. In the earlier match Slough are not taking part in the Roses Tournament at Crystal Palace on January 7 and 8 but will be at an invitation tournament at Worcester on those dates.

Slough, dominating the early exchanges, took a 3-0 lead, despite their sterling performance having earned only one point in two matches, having drawn 6-6 with East Grinstead early this month. Slough, dominating the early exchanges, took a 3-0 lead, despite their sterling performance having earned only one point in two matches, having drawn 6-6 with East Grinstead early this month.

VOLLEYBALL

New faces in English squad

England have included two untried players Simone Lewis, aged 18, and Carla Sinclair, aged 19, for the New Year invitation tournament in Reading, on January 1-2, (Roddy Mackenzie writes).

They will not feature in the main tournament but will play Poland twice. Julie Smith, Debbie Frost, and Amanda Glover, have all been ruled out through injury or illness.

Donna Sedgwick, aged 26, wins her 100th cap against the Poles on New Year's Day. ENGLAND SQUADS: D. Sedgwick, N. Fowler, R. Roberts, S. Pinnock, G. Gannon, S. Lewis, M. Gearing, G. Goss, L. Giller, (A. Hutchings), J. Smith, C. Sinclair, (A. Hutchings), W. Goss (John Leach) and D. Goss (Parsons).

OLYMPIC GAMES

Koreas suggest a united team

Seoul, (Reuters) — North Korea proposed to South Korea yesterday that they end decades of bitter rivalry and send a joint team to the 1990 Asian Games in China. Senior sports officials in Seoul reacted favourably to the plan, which would unite Korean athletes for the first time since the peninsula was divided.

The North Korean Olympic Committee chairman, Kim Yeu-sun, sent a letter to his southern counterpart suggesting the two Koreas hold talks in February to work out details of a joint team for the Peking Games.

"We should no longer commit such abnormal acts as staging competition between the same athletes in the international arena," the letter said.

SPORTS BOOKS

Secrets of the stables de-coded

Simon Barnes's account of a year in the life of John Dunlop's stables at Arundel, *Horsewear and Tears*, is one of the most realistic and compelling books ever written about the sport.

"Racing is a closed world, with a freemasonry of its own, with a secret language for the initiates," says the writer. Here that secret world is explained and decoded in 228 colourful pages.

Arundel Park is one of the most beautiful places in Britain, but at times also one of the coldest. Thus Barnes describes his first freezing visit in January. The horses: "Tap-dancing across the tarmac, striking sparks from their shoes, as they keep about in their fiery efforts to mess out of the biting wind."

The lads: "Faces pinched shut, locked fingers, trying to get some feeling from the reins. Shoulders hunched dispiritedly."

Whatever the conditions, hot or cold, wet or fine, racing is a drug that enslaves its addicts. Dunlop, Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk, the stable's leading owner, Sir Abbott, a syndicate manager, Eddie Watt, the head lad, who's on the go from 5 a.m. to nine at night, Ken "Scobie" Bedford, a lad who runs a disco in his spare time to help pay for the mortgage.

The list of junkies is endless. And the kick they all crave is called winning. Unfortunately, 1987 was not Dunlop's most successful year. It was a time of deep unhappiness for the trainer and his wife, Sue, as their son Tim was killed in a car crash.

And at one period in the summer, because of a mysterious infection, Dunlop's 200 horses-power string went 31 days without a winner. Dunlop is the star and one of the most complete characters in a sport normally noted for the narrow-mindedness and paro-

chialism of its slaves. Barnes hits his man off to a "Dunlop is a man with a restless mind, a mind that craves problems, as the stomach craves food."

Then, talking about the stable lads, the EIU's-week using heroes of the game: "Racing is the natural business of man, and there is an end to it. People who frown in bed until seven of a morning and who have two days off and as much as £150 a week, such people are weirdies, abnormal people to the average stable lad. Racing is life, and there is no more to be said on the matter."

The other book I liked was *Scudamore on Sleepchasing* by Peter Scudamore and Alan Lee. Like all top men, the reigning champion jockey is a workaholic, who goes to bed at nine and whose only relaxation is a five-day week of 13 hangle spent on the roads and riding over fences, is family lunch on Sunday.

There was much to entertain during the year. *No Regard for Money* is a colourful account of the life and times of that quick-witted and resourceful buccannier, Charles Benson, formerly The Scout of the Daily Express.

John Ireland's *Racing Characters* is a gallery of caricatures of the sport's leading personalities. The sharply delineated word portraits by Julian Wilson are revealing.

The bawdiest side of life for steeplechase jockeys is portrayed by John Francombe in *Twelve on a Mile*, and by Steve Smith-Eccles in *Tales from the Turf* in conjunction with Alan Lee.

*Horsewear and Tears* by Simon Barnes (Heinemann and Kingswood, £12.95); *Twice Lucky* by John Francombe (Pelham Books, £10.95); *Racing Characters* by John Ireland (Regent Books, £14.95); *No Regard for Money* by Charles Benson (Quatro Press, £14.95); *Scudamore on Sleepchasing* by Peter Scudamore and Alan Lee (Partridge Press, £12.95); *Tales from the Turf* by Steve Smith-Eccles with Alan Lee (Partridge Press, £12.95).

Open a debate on the most talented 100 footballers ever to have played the game in Britain and initially there would be few arguments. Who, for instance, would dispute the claims of Banks, Baxter, Best, John Charles, Bobby Charlton, Dalgligh, Edwards, Finney, Greaves, Jennings, Law, Mackay and Moore?

The names of perhaps another 40 could be added almost automatically. But the rest of the discussion would be filled with disagreements. Trevor Brooking, the author of *100 Great British Footballers*, appreciates that more than a few of his personal preferences will puzzle readers.

How many would have picked Green, for example, or Jackson? Brooking, who restricted his selection to 100, has seen in action, explains that Green played himself into the list during an infamous FA Cup third-round tie between Bux-

Brooking launches a debate

pool and West Ham United in 1971. West Ham "couldn't contain him and he slaughtered us single handedly." After the 4-0 defeat, four of Brooking's colleagues were fined for preparing for the fixture by spending the evening in a nightclub. Moore, one of the mistresses, was also relieved of the captaincy, marking "the beginning of the end of his career at Upton Park."

Consistency was "unquestionably the trademark" of Jackson, who wore the gloves for Crystal Palace, Leyton Orient and Millwall. "Of enduring excellence, he was one of the first to play late in his thirties, making such longevity a fashion among goalkeepers."

So he admits: are the omissions. Ardiles, Brady, Giles, Mühren and Thistledown do not qualify as Britons, and there is no room for the likes of George Graham, Madley or Tommy Smith. They are mentioned only in the introduction to the 100 chapters.

Succinctly, the gallery of extensive pen pictures contains only 17 individuals currently on display. Of those, two are abroad (Hoddle and Lineker), two are in Scotland (Butcher and Wilkins), two are more managers than players (Dalgligh and Southall), and two are about to retire (Francis and Hutchison).

Of the remnants, more than half represent one club. Liverpool, Brooking with the assistance of Michael Hart, illuminates a half of fame of which he himself would be a distinguished member but for which fewer and fewer players in the game deserve the right to be considered as entrants. © Trevor Brooking's *100 Great British Footballers* (Macdonald Queen Anne Press, £13.95).

Table with columns: Country, Depth (cm), Conditions, Runs to Rest, Weather (°C). Rows include ANDORRA, AUSTRIA, FRANCE, ITALY, SWITZERLAND, DEVS, VERBOS, ZERMAT, SOOTLAND, AUSTRIA, and SWITZERLAND.

Information supplied by the Scottish Meteorological Office. Information supplied by the Austrian National Tourist Office.

Advertisement for 'Premier court' featuring 'Warnock pu in the shop' and 'Luton's bi has £327'. Includes various small text and graphics.



FOOTBALL: ROXBURGH LINES THEM UP IN A WAY THAT HAS HIS ITALIAN HOSTS CONFUSED

Straight Scotch with a wee dash of the mysterious

From Roddy Farvith, Perugia

Andy Roxburgh yesterday announced what appeared to be a straightforward Scotland team to face Italy here in the mountains of Umbria this afternoon with only one new cap, the Rangers midfielder player, Ferguson. No sooner had Roxburgh announced his selection than he attempted to introduce a degree of mystery into the proceedings.

The rest should fall into place. Given that information, the obvious Scottish disposition would require Gough and McLeish to perform specific marking roles on the Italian front pair of Vialli and Serena, with Aitken covering the approaches directly in front of the central defenders.

plan is designed to carry the contest to Italy in midfield, from which area Roxburgh hopes for a greater number of counter-attacking opportunities to be afforded. McLeish has no place in the starting line-up, although the Scottish coach was at pains to stress that this omission implied no lack of confidence in the Manchester United player.



Running in, please pass: Ferguson is the new model to be unravelled in the Scottish range

Luton's big season has £327,000 loss

Luton Town made a trading loss of £327,000 last season even though it was their most successful period on the pitch in their 103-year history. Most of the loss was through increased wages and bonuses paid when Luton won the Littlewoods Cup, their first important trophy, and reached the final of the Flood Cup and the semi-final of the FA Cup.

Robson is cautious about Bull

Bobby Robson yesterday laid out the terms of reference required for Steve Bull to play his way into international reckoning. The England manager admits he has been receiving "rave reports" about the Football League's leading scorer who has re-written the Molineux record books with a tally of 96 goals in only 127 games for Wolverhampton Wanderers, including 77 in the last 16 months.

Waldron backing for Neath trio

Ron Waldron, newly-elected to fill the dual role of manager and coach at Neath, has greeted the Wales squad for the training tour to Spain with mixed feelings. Five Neath players are included in the 35-strong party but Waldron expected more. "I was expecting three others to go. I didn't expect the second row Gareth Llewellyn, but I think Huw Richards (lock), Jeremy Pugh (prop) and Colin Lally (centre) should be in the squad."

Warnock puts Short in the shop window

Neil Warnock, the manager of Scarborough, yesterday put a £300,000 transfer fee on Craig Short as Southampton joined the queue for the central defender's services. The 6ft 2in youth product has drawn a host of inquiries from first and second division clubs after some spectacular displays for the Yorkshire side.

West German league match to be replayed

Frankfurt (AFP) - The West German football federation has ordered Karlsruhe and Borussia Mönchengladbach to replay their first division match which was disrupted by crowd trouble last month.

A convincing superiority from Catlin

Terese Catlin demonstrated her superiority at the top in the British Women's Tennis Association Christmas tournament at Heston yesterday with a 6-0, 6-1 victory over Kate Brasher.

GOLF Faldo a hit on the fairways

The search for perfection has caused Nick Faldo to sacrifice power for accuracy. That is the clear message from the statistics of the PGA European Tour during the 1988 season. In 1986 Faldo held thirteenth place in the driving-distance category but he hit only 68 per cent of fairways to be 25th in the accuracy section.

Table with 5 columns: Position, Name, Driving Distance (yards), Accuracy (%), Greens in Regulation (%), Putts per round. Rows include Ballesteros, Faldo, Costall, Wickham, and Lyle.

excellence, at both ends of the game. Nowadays a good long game on its own is not enough. It must be combined with a deftness of touch. Where Faldo, second in the Volvo Order of Merit behind Severiano Ballesteros, did not match his Spanish rival in 1988 was on the greens. In 1982 Faldo was the best putter in Europe, averaging 28.5 putts each round, and in 1986 and 1987 he was second (28.57) and sixth (29.72). In 1988 he finished 14th (30.00) while Ballesteros was first with a remarkable average of 28.75.

Wasp recall Oti to play

The England winger, Chris Oti, will play for Wasps against Rosslyn Park on Christmas Eve. It will be his first senior match for Wasps since the game against Leicester on September 3, in which he scored two tries.

Bath call in 10 internationals

Bath, unbeaten still this season despite the absence throughout December of most of their leading players, take a strong side to Newbridge tomorrow evening to meet a club whose consistency for game after game is one of Wales's top three clubs this season (David Hands writes).

SWIMMING Brownsdon signs off with another medal

Two finalists, and yet another United States Open medal was won by Suki Brownsdon, was a suitably high note for the British team to end its short North American tour on.

SKIING Oxford adrift after slalom

In perfect conditions, the the University match slalom got underway yesterday in Val d'Isère (a special correspondent writes). After two runs, Oxford were 20pts adrift.

SCHOOLS RUGBY Australians prove quick learners

assertive for their opponent. Four tries in the last 20 minutes was ample evidence of that.

REUNION for finalists

Old Wesley and Bangor who contested the inaugural Southwicks Floodlight Challenge Cup last season have again reached the final scheduled for Angles Road on January 20, the eve of the Ireland-France international in Dublin (George Ace writes).

Premier connections

The green and white shirts of Hibernian Football Club, the Edinburgh premier division club, have been imported to the Swindon and District League, thanks to sponsorship from the club's chairman, David Duff, and the Scottish FA.

FOR THE RECORD

- BASKETBALL: HATFIELD TROPIC (Quarter-Final) 100-80. 1st: 100, 2nd: 80, 3rd: 60, 4th: 40. 1st: 100, 2nd: 80, 3rd: 60, 4th: 40. FOOTBALL: INTERNATIONAL: Crystal Palace 1, Tottenham 1. NATIONAL LEAGUE: Crystal Palace 1, Tottenham 1. TENNIS: QUEEN ELIZABETH'S BARNET: 0-6, 0-6. SCHOOLS RUGBY: Victoria Schools 25-0. SKIING: OXFORD: 20pts adrift.

Simpson in Classic

Open champion Scott Simpson, of the United States, has accepted an invitation to play in the inaugural Coca-Cola Classic at Royal Melbourne Golf Club from January 19-22.

Queensland points

Brisbane (Reuters) - Queensland, the Sheffield Shield leaders, salvaged two points by leading on the first innings against Victoria after the first three days were lost to rain.

PPA DIVIDENDS FOR MATCHES PLAYED MONDAY, 31ST DECEMBER, WILL BE PUBLISHED ON SATURDAY, 1ST JANUARY.

Advertisement for PPA (Pool Promoters Association) featuring a table of match results and prize money for the 'Merry Christmas' event. Includes details about the pool, prizes, and contact information.

Advertisement for Littlewoods Pools, Liverpool, featuring a table of match results and prize money for the 'Festive Share-Out' event. Includes details about the pool, prizes, and contact information.

ROSS KIRKLAND

# Government urged to introduce pilot card scheme

By John Goodbody

One of the four companies which have submitted plans for identity card schemes to the Government's working party yesterday urged that there should be a pilot operation at a few clubs to eliminate minor problems.

The company, Computer Management Group (CMG), also advised the Football Association, the Football League and the clubs to retain their hold on the names and addresses of the spectators joining the national membership scheme when it starts during next season.

## Clubs angered by Home Office list

Blackburn Rovers and Oxford United yesterday joined the critics of a set of statistics published by the Home Office linking arrests with Football League grounds last season.

Don Mackay, the Blackburn manager, said: "We are now told by one police chief that even if somebody, say, steals from a car parked near a ground, it counts towards the overall figures. The total thus becomes very misleading but sections of the Press, to whom football is surely of the utmost importance, seem determined to blacken the name of the game."

"I have in my possession a behaviour survey covering the last three seasons. Some 52 million people attended about 6,000 league games in that period and 17,364 people were ejected. I know that even one is too many but that averages out to just three people per game or .03 per cent of all supporters."

"If the Government feel these figures call for legislation then surely they should introduce national identity cards for everyone because the

clubs, Queen's Park Rangers and Reading, said he would like to see two clubs from, say, the first, and two further clubs from the third division try out the scheme in the first part of next season, although it would be fully operational only when they met each other.

"This is because there are physical problems when one is using technology in an environment that has not used it before," he said.

However, the company believes that the Government, which is to introduce the Bill into Parliament on January 9, is more likely to opt for a "big bang" approach in its latest and toughest attempt to eradicate hooliganism.

Together with other computer companies, CMG is

waiting for the Football Management Authority, which is to be set up to handle the scheme in conjunction with the Football League, to ask for tenders for the contract. To operate a pilot scheme early next season a company must have a decision by March 1989.

Palmer warned: "Neither the government nor the football clubs will finally pay for the scheme. The fans will bear the cost. However, the benefits to the cardholders will ultimately outweigh the cost because they can receive goods and services that would only be offered to valid membership card holders."

This would include reductions for attending a large number of games at clubs and even for international matches at Wembley.

Peter Nasskau, an associate director of CMG, said: "The clubs should have their own control over the scheme rather than allow anyone else access to the information. This is surely the right way forward for any organization. If I were a club chairman I would like to have my foot on the throttle."

One of CMG's rivals, Aquil Holdings (UK), has offered to install the entire scheme free, although it wants access to the list of up to five million people who attend matches during a season so that it can then market the names and addresses.

Until the Government settles the details of the Bill, it is uncertain whether it will insist on the Football Membership Authority having a scheme of "smart cards". This would be more expensive, up to £10 per person, but would allow a far greater amount of information to be stored in the card.

Despite hostility from opposition parties and also from a few Conservative backbench MPs, the Bill is expected to become law.

It will force the vast majority of people attending any professional football club in England to obtain a card even if they only watch one game a season.



Retiring manager: Pyrah takes a seat as Towerlands Anglezarke, ridden by Judy Pyrah, jumps into his new life as a hunter

# Champion hunts a new career

By Jenny MacArthur

Towerlands Anglezarke, the chestnut gelding with the laid-back ears and broad white blaze, the winner of more money than any other horse in British showjumping, was officially retired from the sport at Olympia on Monday night.

His rider, Malcolm Pyrah, had announced the decision in Seoul where the horse, aged 18, was making his seventh appearance in a championship team. "I always wanted him to go out at the top" Pyrah said.

During his nine years at that position, the Irish-bred gelding (by the French thoroughbred, Joyce, out of an Irish draught mare) has won more than £350,000, competed in 29 Nations Cups, won two European Gold Medals and team and individual silver ones, as well as World Championship team and individual silver medals. His numerous

grand prix wins include those at Aachen (1981) and Calgary (1982). "He's a one-off - they'll never be another like him" his owner, Edna Hummable said this week.

Initially Pyrah doubted whether the horse would ever get to the top. Pyrah had his eye on a horse called Chainbridge which he persuaded the late Tom Hummable to buy. Trevor Banks, the owner, would only sell the horse as part of a package with Anglezarke, a horse he had bought for £80,000 from Adrian Marsh two years earlier. (Marsh had named him after a moor near his home in Lancashire).

It took Pyrah just three weeks to appreciate the deal. "After our first show together [Aachen 1980] I knew I had something special - but he was a difficult horse, even now he's not an affectionate horse, he's very much an individ-

ual." That same year, at Wembley, they won the Leading Showjumper Award, a victory which, despite more glorious accolades, remains the most exciting for Pyrah.

The only surprise about Towerlands Anglezarke's subsequent career has been its length and consistency. In a sport where top horses can last less than two years - the Canadian horse, Mr. T, and the West German horse, Fire, the last two winners of the World Championships, have both had fleeting careers - Towerlands Anglezarke has been produced fit and sound for every championship since 1980 - excluding the 1984 Olympics from which Pyrah was barred.

Ronnie Massarella, the British team manager, ranks Towerlands Anglezarke alongside John Whitaker's Ryan's Son as "two of the greatest horses we've ever had." Much

of the credit for Towerlands Anglezarke's long career must go to Pyrah's wife, Judy, whose standards of stable management match her husband's expertise in the ring.

She has prepared the horse for all his major competitions, ensuring that he was not overjumped so he never became bored with the game. Only last year, aged 17, he won the King George V Gold Cup (for the second time) and the Grande Prix at the Royal International Horse Show and the £17,000 first prize in the Dubai Grande Prix at Hickstead.

Judy is benefiting from care she provided. Every Monday she hunts Towerlands Anglezarke with the Quorn in Leicestershire. "He's a smashing hunter. He flies over everything," she said after the opening meet. One would expect no less.

END COLUMN

# A salute to the doped pedaller

By Peter Bryan

The challenge was to ride a cycle from Land's End to John o'Groats, a distance of 875 miles. George Pilkington Mills, aged 19, was successful, breaking the record by 36 hours and reaching the tip of mainland Scotland in just over five days.

Mills did his ride in 1896 on a penny farthing, known then as the high ordinary. His front wheel was 53 inches in circumference - the distance he therefore travelled with every complete revolution of the pedals - he had no brakes and his wheels were shod with solid rubber.

Recalling the ride 52 years later, Mills described the roads in Cornwall as "resembling a sea beach... I had to walk nearly a mile before reaching Senzen and was pitched out of the saddle twice before Penzance." All this in the first 10 miles.

Conditions did not improve as he pedalled north, sitting high on his penny farthing and taking delight that he was the fastest man on the road in Britain. Sleep was a luxury; he managed only six hours during the five days.

He was drawn to the end-to-end record and it was natural that with the introduction of the bicycle as we more or less know it today, he should be in the saddle again.

The year was 1891. He endured 72 hours' continuous rain from the start and managed (or needed) an hour and a half's doze at Penrith, after which he was determined to reach John o'Groats without another stop. On a half mile from the finish, he appeared to collapse and slept for seven hours.

He was weakened, remounted and reached John o'Groats after 4 days 11 hours 17 minutes to beat his own penny farthing



record by 14hr 25min. For 20 years it was thought that he had collapsed from fatigue. Then he revealed the real reason.

In a letter to a friend dated May 26, 1896, he wrote: "The truth is that I was drugged at Helmsdale with cocaine administered with the best intentions by a misguided pacemaker, and I struggled through to the turn post at Groats in an unconscious condition."

"I may say my mind was a perfect blank for this portion of the journey... My doctor tells me that I had enough cocaine to kill two men and it was only the fact that I kept going which saved me." (The manufacture and sale of cocaine was not restricted until the Dangerous Drugs Act of 1920).

His, and other stories about the once kings of the road, have been revived in book form to mark the centenary of the Road Records Association. The author, Roy Green, writes with a flair that comes only from someone who knows and loves his subject.

Spare a thought for another long-distance rider, one G. C. Cooper, of Hull, who decided to attempt the 1,000 miles record in 1906. Starting from London, his route took him through East Anglia to Great Yarmouth, Lincoln, Selby, through his home town and then up to Stockton.

The temperature was 90°F. but Cooper rode on from Stockton to Birmingham, Worcester, Bristol, Bath and then across to Southampton. Brighton left him with 135 miles to cover and the pressure was on. The rules, because of the strong Church "lobby," did not allow record rides on Sunday, requiring Cooper to finish before midnight on Saturday.

He triumphed, finishing near East Grinstead with five minutes to spare, 4 days 15 hours, 55 minutes after leaving London. His "record" is not on the books.

The official timekeeper failed to see his man through at the finish and the Road Records Association would not give its hallmark that, to cycling, is every much as authentic as the London Assay Office stamp on gold and silver.

100 years of Cycling Road Records, by Roy Green (Road Records Association, 133 Colnet Road, Barry, South Glamorgan, CF6 7UJ).

# Pointless failure is worth nearly £1m to England

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

England, in spite of losing all three of their European championship ties, have made a profit of almost £1m from their appearance in the finals last summer. Each of the nations knocked out in the first round is to receive DM3.1 (over £50,000) as its share of the prize fund.

The Republic of Ireland, who opened by beating England in Stuttgart, Denmark who also left West Germany without a single point, and Spain are the other recipients of the lavish financial rewards. They are only marginally smaller than the sums given to those who progressed further.

Italy and the hosts will each collect DM3.4m, for instance. The finalists - the Netherlands, the eventual winners of the trophy and the Soviet Union - will each pick up DM3.8m. All eight countries have benefited from the profits generated in West Germany, which set new records for the tournament.

The total attendance of 910,000 for the 15 games far surpassed the previous highest figure, 600,000 in France four years ago. The overall profit, which includes the sale of television rights, advertising revenue and marketing logos, amounted to DM30m (more than £9m, compared with

about £5.5m in 1984). More than a third of the money raised was contributed by spectators. Wolfgang Niersbach, a spokesman for the West German Football Federation confirmed yesterday that the eight grounds were full to 95 per cent of their capacities. "Many foreign fans came," he said. "And that was a good boost to the crowds."

He added that most of the cost of modernizing the stadia, DM43.3m, was set aside specifically to prevent trouble being caused by miscreants. "The cities involved spent a lot of money on security measures but that is not included in our figures."

# Sansom offered a passage north

By Dennis Signy

Kenny Sansom, of Arsenal, is expected to join Newcastle United today for £300,000. Sansom, who has played 86 times for England, lost the Arsenal captaincy and his first-team place at the beginning of the season.

Jim Smith, the Newcastle manager, tried unsuccessfully to contact George Graham, his counterpart at Highbury, to complete the transfer yesterday afternoon. Sansom stayed on standby for a late flight to Newcastle.

Smith, who earlier in the day agreed to buy Ray Ranson, a right back, from

Birmingham City for £150,000, had tried to take Sansom on loan when he was managing Queen's Park Rangers. He hopes that both players will make their first appearances for their new club against Sheffield Wednesday on Boxing Day.

Earlier this week, Graham fined Sansom two weeks' salary because an article appeared under Sansom's name in a tabloid newspaper. The player has appealed.

Sansom has been at Arsenal for eight years, having joined them in a transfer exchange with Crystal Palace

# French duo fail with late appeal

The Jockey Club yesterday turned down an appeal by United Racecourses to have French challengers, Napsala and Nord AC, reinstated to the field for Boxing Day's King George VI Chase at Kempton Park.

Staff at Francois Doumen's Lamorlaye yard missed the entry deadline for the big race on Tuesday when a fax was sent to the wrong address. After taking legal advice, the racecourse owners made a formal request to Lord Falhaven to add the French pair to the list of six entries for the £60,000 added contest.

However, the Jockey Club dismissed the appeal and spokesman David Pipe stressed: "However sympathetic the Senior Steward and the stewards may be to the French and the racing public, they have been elected to administer racing."

Angus Crichton-Miller, a director of the sponsors, Rank Leisure, said: "I was angry and dismayed by the Jockey Club's stance. Quite apart from the effect on this year's race, it does force us to reconsider our whole racing sponsorship position."

At one point, Doumen's connections were threatening to take the matter to the High Court. However, Napsala, last year's winner of the King George, and Nord AC are likely to run at Kempton on Tuesday instead, in the three-mile Odeon Cinema Handicap Chase.

# Graveney accuses Pakistan

By Richard Streeton

Pakistan's willingness during their visit to Australia to play against Terry Alderman, who went on a rebel tour to South Africa two years ago, was criticized yesterday. David Graveney, a spokesman for the English Cricketers' Association said it epitomized the middle that the International Cricket Conference had to sort out at its crisis meeting in January.

Alderman, who played under Graveney's captaincy for Gloucestershire last summer, has already recently appeared in one-day international matches against Pakistan and West Indies. He has now been included in the Australian party for the third Test match with Pakistan in Melbourne on Saturday.

Graveney said: "Here we have a case of Pakistan being willing to play against a man who earned money in South Africa but they would not meet Graham Gooch. Both

Alderman and Gooch served their punishments for going to South Africa yet Pakistan will not play England. It smacks of double standards and leaves one wondering what is going on."

Graveney said the confusion was why the Cricketers' Association was desperately anxious for the ICC to sort out the problem once and for all. A young English player did not know if he was jeopardizing his career in the future, even if he went to South Africa merely to coach non-whites.

"Everybody appreciates the chips are now down and England's scheduled visit to West Indies next year seems unlikely to take place unless a solution is found. The Cricketers' Association wants the rules sorted out and there must be no further retrospective action in the future once agreement is reached."

# Slaney critical of drug tests

New York - Mary Slaney, the American middle-distance runner, has claimed that either drug testing at the Olympic Games in Seoul was faulty or positive results were intentionally ignored (Reuter reports).

Speaking at a news conference to promote the Millrose Games here in February, Slaney said that officials were not doing enough to prevent drug abuse in sport. "I know my events [1,500 and 3,000 metres] at the

Games weren't clean." Slaney said. "I also have some suspicions about some gold medal winners." But she refused to mention specific names or events.

"I think the public isn't aware of the widespread abuse that exists," she added. "Ben Johnson is far from being an isolated incident."

Slaney was especially critical of officials on the European athletics circuit. "I feel that there are a lot of positive

meeting of the Cricketers' Association executive, attended by representatives of most countries, agreed in principle that their previous hard line attitude about maintaining cricketers' rights to visit South Africa had to be toned down. "It will not please everybody among our members," Graveney said.

"Our prime objective remains for our players to be employed with freedom of movement 12 months a year. On the other hand, if the South African issue means international cricket being wrecked, we would not have the chance to earn a living with our countries."

# Coaches face big fines for criticizing referees

Bradford Northern had lost their John Player Special Trophy semi-final against Wigan, at Leeds, on Saturday, while Crellin had uttered similar criticism of the referee after the Workington Town v Rochdale Hornets second division game on Sunday.

Joe Lydon can now breathe easily and try to put behind him his conviction for assaulting a spectator following a St Helens v Wigan game. The Wigan and Great Britain international heard from the board of directors yesterday that no further action will be taken on the disreputable charge which hung over his head until the recent court case.

Coaches who publicly criticize referees and touch judges will in future suffer heavy punishment without right of reply following a ruling made yesterday by the board of directors of the Rugby League.

Two coaches, Barry Seabourne of Bradford Northern, and Jim Crellin, of Rochdale Hornets, were each fined £250.

After the announcement of the punishment it was stated that the £250 fine would be the basis of a code of practice in which, for a second offence, the fine would be increased to £500, and for a third offence suspension.

Seabourne made a verbal attack on the referee Dave Carter, of Widnes, after



# The things they said in sport

Who said: "Every man prefers my shape to that of a rubber ball" and "I didn't think I was the marrying type but people change"? Answers in our famous selection of the Quotes of the Year from *The Times* on Saturday. Plus our equally renowned Christmas sports jumbo crossword, with exciting prizes from Whitbread, including a day at one of the great sporting events of 1989.

Our Boxing Day issue features the full guide to all eight race meetings, with a special betting offer from William Hill. Plus the latest news on the day's football and rugby.

# Warren must wait for judgement

Frank Warren, the boxing manager, must wait until the new year before knowing whether he can temporarily stop agent, Ambrose Mendy, from having control over Nigel Benn, the Commonwealth middleweight champion.

After a week-long hearing, Lord Justice Purches, Nourse and Stuart-Smith reserved their judgement on Warren's application for a temporary injunction.

Warren has asked the Court of Appeal to impose the injunction preventing Mendy from interfering with the managerial contract he has with Benn.

# Offiah in demand

Three clubs in Australia, including Western Suburbs, which have signed Ellery Hanley, are also hoping to gain the services of Martin Offiah, the Great Britain rugby league wing.

Hanley's contract is reputedly worth £3,500 a match.

# LeMond signs

Brussels (Reuter) - Greg LeMond, the first American to win the Tour de France in 1986, has left PDM, the Dutch team, and signed a two-year contract with ADR, of Belgium, who had been trying to sign Sean Kelly, of Ireland.

# SPORT IN BRIEF

## Armenia aid

Bonn (AFP) - Leading West German footballers of the 1970's like Franz Beckenbauer, Paul Breitner and Gunter Netzer are ready to play for the Soviet Union in aid of earthquake victims in Armenia.

## In firing line

Sydney (Reuter) - Geoff Lawson, the Australia fast bowler whose jaw was broken in five places by Carly Ambrose a fortnight ago, said he hoped to return for New South Wales in the Sheffield Shield.

## Madrid date

Carl Thackeray, the British cross country international, will compete in the San Sylvestre 10km road race.

## Drechsler taking a break

East Berlin (Reuter) - Heike Drechsler, who won a silver medal in the long jump and bronze medals in the sprints at the Seoul Olympics, is taking a year off from athletics to concentrate on a teacher training course.

## LeMond signs

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